FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 MARCH 1985

Iran

A bomb attached to a "terrorist" exploded at the Friday prayers ceremony at Tehran University on 15 March, IRNA announced. President 'Ali Khamene'i, who led the sermon, denounced the act as a plot by the "Munafiqeen splinter group," the agency reported. Five worshippers and the "terrorist" were killed as a result of the explosion, the agency stated.

Iran-Iraq War

While INA reported that Iranian artillery continued to shell Basra "residential areas" on 15 March, IRNA reiterated that Iran is prepared to halt its "aerial and missile" attacks on Iraqi residential areas if Iraq makes firm commitments to international organizations that it will stop its attacks on Iranian cities.

As for the battles east of the Tigris, an Iranian military communique reported that "magnificent victories" were achieved and that the number of Iraqi troops killed or wounded "surpassed 1,000," according to IRNA. The communique also stated that an Iraqi PC-7 plane was shot down in the area on 14 March. Nevertheless, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio maintained that the Al-Humayun and Al-Sakhrah areas were "completely purged" and that "thousands" of Iranian troops have been killed.

Lebanon

Phalangist Internal Crisis — The Lebanese Forces Command Councilannounced the formation of an "emergency committee" following a 14 March meeting, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Fu'ad Nadir and Sami Ja'ja' were appointed members of the committee, the radio noted. Earlier, members of the Lebanese Forces Command met with members of the committee headed by the Maronite patriarch in Bkirki, according to the radio. In a statement on the Bkirki meeting broadcast by the radio, the leaders declared that they will continue to support all constitutional institutions.

Karami in Syria — Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Tourism Minister Walid Junblatt discussed the current Lebanese situation during a meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, according to Damascus radio.

UK Scientist Kidnapped — A UK Embassy spokesman announced that a British metallurgist was kidnapped by three armed men near his home in West Beirut on 14 March, AFP reported.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher discussed the Middle East situation during their 14 March talks in London, MENA reported. According to a PRESS ASSOCIATION report on the talks, Prime Minister Thatcher "offered her support" for Mubarak's peace initiative.

Describing the results of Mubarak's talks with U.S. officials as "expected," a Cairo radio commentator, in remarks broadcast by the radio, said no one expected the United States to recognize the PLO or begin negotiations with a PLO-Palestinian delegation "immediately." The commentator went on to note that a "positive sign" was the fact that the United States "stressed" that peace talks should be based on returning occupied territories and restoring Palestinian rights.

OAPEC-Iraq

The OAPEC judicial tribunal rejected Iraq's request for "urgent measures" to reopen its oil pipeline through Syrian territory and decided that "irrepairable damage" can be financially compensated, KUNA reported.

Sudan

SPLA Attacks — A Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) battalion attacked and captured a Sudanese Army garrison near Mongalla in Equatoria on 13 March, the clandestine SPLA radio reported. In another report the radio announced that SPLA forces shot down a Buffalo transport plane at Akobo the same day. However, a Sudanese military spokesman maintained that the transport plane carrying supplies for refugees "crashed" during takeoff, according to SUNA.

Muslim Brotherhood — Information Minister 'Ali Shammu, in an exclusive statement to the Egyptian paper *AL-AHRAM* cited by MENA, said that Iran was behind the "recent attempt" by Muslim Brotherhood members to seize power in Sudan. 'Ali Shammu went on to describe the recent arrests of Muslim Brotherhood members as a "precautionary measure."

Pakistan

The Foreign Ministry lodged a "strong protest" with the DRA charge d'affaires over three incidents of airspace violations by DRA planes over the Arandu area on 13 March, Karachi radio reported. According to the report a total of 11 DRA planes dropped 37 bombs and fired rockets during the attacks.

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PLO Radio on 'Arafat at Chernenko Funeral

JN141731 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is continuing his official visit to the USSR. He took part in the funeral of the late Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko yesterday along with several world leaders who arrived in Moscow to participate in the funeral of the late Soviet leader.

'Arafat Discusses Jordan, Syria in AL-MAJALLAH

PM141630 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 13-19 Mar 85 pp 8-10

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by 'Imad al-Din Adib and Salih Qallab in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: A Palestinian delegation recently went to Amman to resolve some problems related to your agreement with Jordan. Have these problems been solved and has the Jordanian Government approved the amendments you want to introduce?

Answer: First of all there are no problems regarding the agreement, but some points in this agreement, as in any other agreement, require further discussion. That is why discussions will continue regarding details of the Jordanian-Palestinian paper, which only consists of broad outlines. Each item requires more details. After the agreement was signed the Palestinian leadership formed the opinion that two points were ambiguous. So I sent King Husayn a letter explaining our views and we later sent a special envoy to his majesty when he was in Austria. He welcomed resumption of the dialogue on all points warranting further explanation. It was on this basis that Brother Abu Iyad [Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf] and Brother Abu Mazin [Fatah Central Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas] proceeded to Amman. They were later joined there by [PLO Executive Committee Member] Brother Abu Jihad [Fatah Central Committee Member Khalil al-Wazir] was supposed to join them, but he had to go to hospital because of an accident. They held lengthy talks with the Jordanian side under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Husayn, who kindly responded to a large extent to our views regarding the points in question, especially the second article on self-determination and the third article on participation of Arab sides in the talks.

Question: You have said that the dialogue with Jordan will continue. Does that mean that the agreement is incomplete?

Answer: I consider the agreement to be complete but the dialogue will continue through joint committees, which will work out the minute details and clarifications of every article. A Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee will follow up at the Arab and international levels.

Question: Does that mean that Jordan has approved the Palestinian amendments which specifically mention a Palestinian state in the article on self-determination, and have the Jordanians approved the reference to an Arab delegation in the article on an international conference?

Answer: I cannot say anything now, but what has been agreed will soon be announced.

Question: At the international level, will there be a joint delegation or will each side move separately?

Answer: Some moves will be made through a joint delegation while other moves will be made separately by the Jordanians and the Palestinians. Circumstances and developments will determine all that.

Question: I repeat the question. Will you move jointly with Jordan at the international level?

Answer: There is no agreement on this matter, but that does not mean that there are differences between us. We and the Jordanians have not yet discussed these peripheral details.

Question: Do you believe that any solution or move is possible without Syria?

Answer: There is a difference between what you are saying and what I am saying. I say that this agreement concerns the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem and the Golan. We have not said that Syria is out of what is happening in the region. Some Syrian territory is occupied and therefore the Syrian role cannot be negated at any time, but that is the limit of its role. Jordanian-Palestinian bilateral relations are quite a different matter. The Algiers and Amman PNC resolutions spoke of special relations between us and the Jordanians.

Question: Brother Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat], the Americans say that Syria has a regional role to play.

Abu 'Ammar (interrupting): Let me be specific. If the Americans speak of a Syrian regional role, it is not my responsibility to implement the Carter-Al-Asad agreement. I am not historically responsible for the implementation of U.S. designs. I reject, I reject (angrily) this to begin with. I have the highest regard for the Syrian people. The Syrian people may lead me to victory. That is fine. I am speaking for history and the coming generations.

Salih (interrupting): Abu 'Ammar, allow me to finish my question. I began the question by saying that the Americans speak of a Syrian regional role. To complete the question I say that the Soviets also agree that there is such a role for Syria to play. Are you and King Husayn swimming against that tide?

Answer: Whether the Soviets or the Americans approve or not does not concern me. My only criterion is the interests of the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people. I do not agree with the way you have put your question. You have said that the Americans and the Soviets want a regional role for Syria. The Soviets do not see it that way because if they did they would have reached agreement with the Americans in Geneva recently. This is a Syrian claim. Play another one, Salih.

Question: When the Syrians are asked about their objections to the practices of the PLO's legitimate leadership, they list a number of observations...

Abu 'Ammar (interrupting angrily and repeatedly): Are they my trustees? I also have observations and I am not prepared to listen to his [Al-Asad's] observations. Let him come to a summit conference and discuss these observations. Let us hold a bilateral sessions. I have many observations and they are more serious than his. All the Arabs heard my observations when, at the Fes conference, he said: "They told me [that the Israelis would advance to a distance of] 45 km only" [into Lebanon]. Ask him who were those who told him that and why he did not tell us and the Arabs about it.

'Imad (interrupting): Abu 'Ammar, do not tease me.

Abu 'Ammar (jokingly): And you, do not terrorize me. I am a struggler carrying my gun in defense of my people.

Question: Abu 'Ammar, these observations are:

1. That Yasir 'Arafat interfered in Syria's internal affairs, specifically in the Hamah incidents.
2. That Yasir 'Arafat makes promises he does not fulfill.
3. That he is personally joining certain alliances to pave the way for a settlement against the Arab nation's interests.

Abu 'Ammar (interrupting): Are they the Arab nation's trustees?

Question: The first observation is that one of the main aims of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is to undermine Syria's nationalist policy in the region. Abu 'Ammar, please answer these points.

Answer: First of all, if there is any evidence that the PLO had anything to do with the Hamah incidents then he is right not to forgive us. He should not shove the blame on the PLO.

Question: Was there no...
Answer (interrupting): I challenge him, I challenge him, I challenge him and all his departments. He asked me to provide a cover for Hamah but I did not give it to him.

Question: What about the claim that you tried to exploit the situation in Syria by banking on [Vice President] Rif'at al-Asad's wing?

Answer: By God, Rif'at al-Asad used to tell me things which [Vice President] Khaddam or [Chief of Staff] Hikmat al-Shihabi could not tell me. Hafiz al-Asad used to send him to me in Beirut as a special envoy to tell me these things. He was his permanent envoy to some Arab states and his special envoy to King Hassan. He was his personal envoy to me on certain matters which he did not want Khaddam or Hikmat to know about. I do not deny that there was a friendship between me and Rif'at al-Asad similar to the friendship I had with Hikmat and with Hafiz al-Asad himself. I will never forget that Rif'at al-Asad was against the Tripoli siege. He officially contacted us and said he was against that operation. I can only thank a man who takes such a supportive stance toward me. As regards the unkept promises, is he my trustee?

Question: The third observation is that the Jordanian-Palestinian alliance is mainly directed against Syrian interests in the region.

Answer: Ask him this: Did 'Arafat not submit the problem to you and did Abu 'Ammar not say to you that a solution in the region could only be found through a Jordanian-Syrian-Palestinian agreement? He rejected that.

Question: Why did he reject it?

Answer: Ask him. He wants a Syrian-Jordanian alliance as in the days of unity. He wants the Palestinian card and the Lebanese card in his pocket. He wants to play all the cards. He also wants the Iraq-Iran war card in his pocket. There is also a Carter-Al-Asad agreement. If all that was in the interest of liberation I would have agreed to it.

Question: Is it true that during your discussions with the Jordanians on the return of territory they talked about restoration of Jordanian territory through negotiations?

Answer: They did during the first round of negotiations, but they were talking about an area occupied by Israel south of the Dead Sea and another in the north. I know the two places. The reference was not to the West Bank.

Question: What do you think of what the foreign press has called "President Mubarak's initiative," and why do you think he made that initiative?

Answer: Before I move to President Mubarak's initiative I want to talk about the agreement. I know that the agreement is not simply a piece of paper signed by me and King Husayn. It is the beginning of Arab solidarity.

Question: Let us go back to President Husni Mubarak's initiative. Why did you make statements giving the impression that you were rejecting the initiative?

Answer: First because President Husni Mubarak presented his ideas and announced that in his view these ideas could help move the settlement wheel forward. We believe that the nonmention of the PLO and the stress on the Palestinians takes us back to the Mena House formula, although I am fully convinced that that was not President Mubarak's intention.

Question: If that is the picture, what use is the agreement?

Answer: Why did you not ask me the same question when I conclude' a strategic agreement with Syria, and why did Syria not consider that agreement to be an act of dissension?

Question: That was an agreement in the direction of war, not a political agreement in the direction of a political settlement with the Americans.

Answer: When we talk about ending the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, including Jerusalem, does it not mean to the whole world that all these territories, and especially Jerusalem, can only be regained after war. This agreement is similar to the

agreement I had with the Lebanese Government. Israel had nothing to do with it. Is it a crime to conclude an agreement to organize political moves? War is politics in a loud voice. The most important thing about this agreement is that it prevents separate settlements such as the one which Al-Sadat fell for.

Question: Let us talk about the so-called need for the presence of moderate Palestinians. Is there such a thing as moderate Palestinians and are there non-PLO Palestinians who could represent Palestine?

Answer: I wish the brother Arab officials would have mercy on me when they talk about moderate Palestinians and then add a new condition every day. Brothers, why should conditions be imposed only on the Palestinian revolution? If the talk is about moderates I am not one of them.

Question: So the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and it chooses the people it thinks should represent it in the negotiations?

Answer: That is correct. We have not changed that position since 1975.

Question: And never will?

Answer: Certainly, we will never abandon that position. I have been entrusted with the responsibility for the PLO

Question: You complain that the Americans only understand the language of force. What happened in Lebanon proved that. How can the situation be reactivated to make the Americans acknowledge that? Some people are saying that the Shi'ites have managed to impose that kind of reality through suicide operations and that the Palestinians were not of the same standard.

Answer: Was Dalal Al-Mughrabi's operation not a suicide operation? How many suicide operations ahve the Palestinians carried out?

Question: Is continuation of this kind of operation and activity being contemplated or is reduction of military operations a part of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement?

Answer: Did the Vietnamese stop their military operations when they began negotiating?

Question: If the Americans call for a dialogue conference to be attended by the Egyptians and by the Jordanians on behalf of the Palestinians...

Answer: Our position is known: A UN or international conference to be attended by the member states in addition to the parties concerned, including the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing with the other states.

Question: So all the Arab and foreign press reports that on accepting the agreement Jordan declared that if the PLO did not respond then Jordan would go it alone in the negotiations are not true?

Answer: The king said this: "If you want a joint move we welcome that, and if you want a separate PLO move then we are prepared to deal with you as we deal with any other Arab state."

Question: Do you think that Shim'on Peres really wants to arrive at a certain formula?

Answer: I think that Shim'on Peres is more dangerous to us than [Israeli Foreign Minister] Shamir and others.

Qeustion: So Peres thinks that he can divide the Arabs by raising the question of negotiations although he does not really want to negotiate.

Answer: He is too weak to negotiate with a delegation including PLO representatives because the Israeli rule is "no to the Palestinians and no to the PLO."

Salah Khalaf on Agreement With Jordan, Moscow Ties

PM141530 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 13-19 Mar 85 pp 11,12

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf by 'Imad al-Din Adib and Salih Qallab in Tunis — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: You led those opposed to the previous draft agreement with Jordan, and recently you led a Palestinian delegation to Amman and held talks with King Husayn. Are there any new developments?

Answer: The talks with King Husayn were useful since many ambiguous points have been clarified. We are now studying the ideas with which we came back from Jordan, particularly the interpretations of Articles 2 and 5 which concern the Palestinian state in the clause regarding self-determination and the question of representation at the international conference. We have come back with good ideas which we are in the course of formulating in a reasonable manner in order to amend some of the agreement provisions.

Question: This means that agreement in its final form has not yet been reached.

Answer: From my point of view the agreement contains a number of points which must be agreed upon so that we will not disagree in the future.

Question: In your previous statements you raised the question of the Palestinian state and the independent [Palestinian] delegation. Has agreement been reached on these two points?

Answer: The Jordanian side has agreed to include the question of Palestinian state within the clause on self-determination. With regard to the joint delegation, clarifications have been made to the provision defining the parties of which the delegation consists, which are the Arab parties to attend the international conference. I believe that this point, on which we have been able to reach a compromise, does not represent our view and, to be honest, it does

not represent the Jordanians' view for each of us has its own views. We have tried to reach a compromise between the two views.

Question: In your talks with King Husayn did you touch upon President Mubarak's recent statements?

Answer: What I understood was that the Jordanians were not pleased with President Mubarak's statements on the grounds that they are contrary to the agreement between us. For this reason King Husayn sent an envoy to the Egyptian president. I believe that the envoy returned with explanations which I do not know whether King Husayn has accepted or not.

Question: We have heard several stories about your agreement with Jordan. What is the story of this agreement, how was it signed, and what were the implications involved?

Answer: Our objection to the draft agreement centers on two basic points. The first is the clause concerning the UN resolutions, in which you only find reference to Resolution 242, particularly when no provision is made for the establishment of a state within the context of talk about self-determination. The second is that the provision concerning the right to self-determination is vague and needs clarification. It says that the Palestinians will exercise their inalienable right when they are able to do so within the context of the proposed federation between the Jordanian state and the Palestinian state. Our objection to this provision is that it speaks about Palestinians and not the Palestinian people. It is known that this term is used by the Israelis in referring to our people as a community. Also the right to self-determination in the form it is stated means a referendum and not the right to self-determination. Also the version in the Jordanian paper uses the term "the Jordanians," which refers to the fact that the confederation will be realized when the Jordanians and the Palestinians can achieve it.

We wonder whether the reference to Jordanians here means inhabitants of the occupied West Bank and the reference to the Palestinians means the inhabitants of Gaza. If the reference is to our Jordanian brothers then the phrase should read: "After the Palestinian state is established the Jordanian and the Palestinian peoples shall be polled about the future ties between the Jordanian state and the Palestinian state." The serious thing about this phrase and the way it is rendered is that if the referendum on confederation fails we will lose the right to establish a state. For this reason we insist on the right to self-determination within an independent state, after which a referendum will be held on future ties between Jordan and Palestine for the establishment of a confederation.

Moreover, the provision in the Jordanian paper regarding the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, regardless of Jordanian intentions with which we might agree or disagree, will be understood to be only a Jordanian delegation including some Palestinians who are not PLO members. Thus the Jordanian paper as far as the Americans and the Israelis are concerned will be an exchange of land for peace on the basis of Resolution 242 and self-determination within a vague context whose result will be a confederation with Jordan without a Palestinian state. Moreover, the joint delegation, as I have already said, will in fact be a Jordanian delegation and not a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation on an equal footing.

Question: But why was the Jordanian announcement of the agreement made in this manner?

Answer: The way the agreement was announced was intended to confront us with a fait accompli so that we would accept what was agreed upon without amendments. I am against this method. Our statements following the said Jordanian announcement began taking a new tone because we were supposed to keep the agreement a secret until it was finalized and there were no more reservations. Here I would like to point out that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] agreed with King Husayn that the agreement was to be announced after it was finally approved. For this reason I believe that the way the agreement was announced was not an innocent gesture.

Question: What then do the Palestinians expect to obtain when they have no cards in their hands? What cards does the PLO have in its hands at present?

Answer: I believe that we have one single card, which is recognizing the Zionist aggression on our country; that is accepting the establishment of a Palestinian state in part of this country. We strongly believe in our principles and insist on achieving them through armed struggle. But this belief and this insistence are subject to several conditions and factors. For this reason we say that no peace can possible be achieved in the Middle East unless the Palestinian people's problem is resolved. They are seeking to exploit Arab differences, and some Arab parties have sought to destroy the PLO in order to impose on us a solution in which we will be mere witnesses. This is where the danger lies. For this reason we must stand fast and be patient. I am against a settlement for settlement's sake. Is it conceivable that we can reach a settlement without Syria? Is it possible that we can reach an acceptable agreement without such an agreement envisaging pushing back occupation from the Syrian Golan heights? We cannot proceed with Jordan in a separate solution. It will be a weak solution. Furthermore, can we proceed with Jordan in a solution when three-fourths of the Palestinian organizations, even if these organizations are mere nameboards, do not approve of it? Can we accept such an agreement when our people in the occupied territories are divided. For this reason I would again say that we are prepared to face the whole world if the provisions of the agreement with Jordan are clear and do not jeopardize the resolutions of the legitimate Palestinian bodies.

Question: Do you believe that changes have begun to be introduced in the Palestinian home, bearing in mind that there are major problems that have not yet been resolved?

Answer: Never in the history of their struggle have the Palestinian people rallied around their leadership as they are rallied around their present leadership. Unfortunately this leadership recently began to lose some of its credit among its people. I must say here that we must face our problems clearly and must not blame them on Syria, Libya, or any other Arab country. The person who convened the PNC and faced many challenges should have avoided making any political mistakes that would abort this success. I have often said that no changes in our political leader-

ship are proposed. We adhere to Abu 'Ammar's leadership. This leadership is more in harmony with itself than any leadership. It is aware that the leader has not reached his position easily but as a result of long struggle and difficult and hard conditions.

We are brothers and we adhere to Brother Abu 'Ammar's leadership because we know that he might err but he cannot possibly commit treason. I disagree with Abu 'Ammar in his interpretations, but this disagreement should remain within the context of unity, of protecting Abu 'Ammar, and of rectifying the mistakes he might make. This is as far as the subjective crisis is concerned which, as I said, can be resolved through political clarity. As for the objective crisis, it is involved in other circumstances tht could be far too difficult for all of us.

Question: Do you believe that President Mubarak's statements were merely a preparation for his visit to the United States in order to obtain the economic aid he wants, or was he reading aloud what King Husayn is thinking and explaining the truth about the recent agreement?

Answer: I hope that the reason is neither one nor the other, but regardless of the reason, the context of these statements serves Israeli policy.

Question: It is said that the Soviet Union is distancing itself from the PLO as it becomes flabbier and leans more toward negotiations.

Answer: First of all I refuse to allow the PLO to be described as flabby. This is evident in the fact that it is now at the peak of activity and political action; it is in a strong conflict with strong powers of the caliber of the United States and Israel as well as with some of the Arab parties. Moreover, it must be stressed that the PLO has not distanced itself from the Soviet Union, nor has the Soviet Union distanced itself from the PLO. Moscow has been with us and is still with us. Contacts between us and Moscow were at their peak before this agreement was signed. I have seen the message which Chernenko addressed to Abu 'Ammar 3 weeks ago. I also know something about the Soviet message to Hafiz al-Asad during the same period of time. They both contain the same thing. They tell us: You must come to an understanding with Syria, and they tell Syria: You must come to an understanding with the PLO. So far Moscow is against a broad front and against any substitute for the PLO.

Further Losses Inflicted on Israelis in Lebanon

JN141758 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] The heroes of the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces are intensifying their operations against personnel and vehicles of the Zionist occupation forces and their agents in occupied southern Lebanon, inflicting further losses in life and equipment.

The heroes of the joint forces launched a machinegun and rocket attack against a Zionist intelligence vehicle at the crossroad of (Yaturia) in occupied southern Lebanon yesterday evening. The vehicle was destroyed and all of its occupants were either killed or wounded. The heroes of the joint forces also attacked a Zionist military patrol on the 'Abbasiyah road in the occupied south. One half-track was destroyed, another was damaged, and all of their occupants were either killed or wounded in the machinegunand rocket attack.

The heroes of the joint forces also launched a machinegun and rocket attack against a Zionist military position near Al-Buss in the Tyre district in occupied southern Lebanon. Several Zionist soldiers were either killed or wound. The joint forces also attacked a military position belonging to the militias of the so-called army of southern Lebanon in the port of Tyre. A number of agent elements were either kil ed or wounded.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the operations but, as usual, did not metnion his losses or those of his agents. He said his forces immediately carried out an extensive search and made a large number of arrests in a futile attempt to find the heroes of the joint forces.

Fedayeen Operations in West Bank Reported

JN141726 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] In accordance with the revolution command's directives and decisions to escalate armed struggle inside the occupied homeland, the main arena of conflict, our heroic revolutionaries operating inside the occupied land are escalating their armed operations against personnel and vehicles of the Zionist occupation forces and Zionist settlers.

The Palestinian military spokesman said that a group of our revolutionaries set off an explosive charge yesterday in a Zionist troop concentration near the 'Immanu'el settlement near Nabulus in the occupied West Bank. A number of Zionist soldiers were either killed or wounded.

Another group of our revolutionaries launched a Molotov cocktail attack against two Zionist military vehicles yesterday near Dura in Hebron. The two vehicles were burned and all of their Zionist occupants were either killed or wounded. Another group of our revolutionaries launched another Molotov cocktail attack against the Zionist Leumi Bank tranch on Salah al-Din Street in occupied Jerusalem. Extensive damage was caused to the Zionist bank and a number of Zionist soldiers were wounded.

The Zionist enemy radio admitted the operations but did not mention his losses. He said his forces cordoned off the areas of the operations, carried out an extensive search, and arrested a large number of Palestinians on the pretext of being involved in the operations.

OAPEC Rejects Iraqi Request on Reopening Pipeline

LD141253 Kuwait KUNA in English 1025 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 14 (KUNA) — The OAPEC seven-man judicial tribunal rejected here Thursday Iraq's request for urgent measures to reopen its oil pipeline which extends across Syrian territories.

Issuing the verdict, president of the tribunal Fares al-Wegeyan said five tribunal members objected to the Iraqi request.

The tribunal unanimously called on both parties to refrain from taking any measures that would cause damage to respective properties of the two countries until a final settlement is reached.

Iraq has filed a complaint with the judicial tribunal of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries about three years ago against Syria which stopped the flow of Iraqi oil through its territories.

The verdict stated that such measures require the simultaneous endorsement of two conditions which are the urgent status of the request and guaranteeing that no irreparable damage would be infringed on properties of the concerned parties.

The matter was considered urgent by the tribunal which found the claimant's oil exports losing market, and that the pipeline is being damaged by the suspension of oil flow.

However, the Iraqi demand lost ground when the tribunal decided that irrepairable damage to the pipeline are pure material loses which can be evaluated and financially compensated.

In Sunday's session, the claimant's attorney evaluated the loses by 25 million dollar daily, the verdict said.

"And since the damage can be repaired by compensation, the urgent measure has not met the condition which was perscribed by the 35th article of the tribunal's protocol," the verdict stipulated.

KUWAIT

PRC Deputy Minister on Investment Accord

LD142138 Kuwait KUNA in English 1801 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 14 (KUNA) — Kuwait and China are close to finalizing an investment guarantee accord which Beijing hopes will help attract Gulf capital to China, a senior Chinese official said here Thursday.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Wei Yuming said the agreement would be signed soon in China after specialists from both sides meet there to iron out details.

But "agreement in principle" had been achieved on the issue, he said after a meeting of the Sino-Kuwaiti finance and investment committee.

The deputy minister, who is part of an 18-member Chinese economic delegation currently visiting the country, said he hoped conclusion of the agreement, protecting capital invested in China and granting special privileges to investors, would encourage the flow of Gulf funds to the People's Republic.

After the accord is finalized, China hopes to conduct a seminar on Gulf investment in the country, to be held in Kuwait, where businessmen from various Gulf countries will be briefed by Chinese officials on the subject.

He said the Kuwaiti-Chinese protocol should be finalized by early next month.

The Chinese official said the joint investment commission had exchanged views in a "friendly" atmosphere.

The Kuwaiti team in the committee was headed by Faysal al-Khalid, who heads the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development [KFAED], the government's soft-loan financial aid agency.

KFAED has recently granted China two loans, and Wei said that Thursday's talks had also evaluated the four projects currently being financed by the latest of the loans.

AL-WATAN Condemns U.S. Security Council Veto

LD141309 Kuwait KUNA in English 1016 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 14 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti daily *AL WATAN* Thursday said the American veto against the Lebanese draft resolution, condemning Israeli atrocities in the south, does not differ from the Israeli massacres committed against civilians in southern Lebanon.

The paper said the American veto, or as the paper described it an "aggressive attack" is not new because the U.S. has practiced the veto against the Arabs since 1948, "but its latest attack in the Security Council reveals the ugly American face."

It noted that the U.S. and Israel are "one member that practice one kind of aggressiveness against the Arab nation."

The paper, on the other hand, expressed surprise over some Arab "moves" toward the White House, saying "our dignity, which is defended by the people of southern Lebanon, the Arabs insist on offering it as a sacrifice to the American master, who would never plead for us, because we lost our self respect."

Briefs

Infiltrators Arrested — Patrols for the Umm al-Madafi' police station resulted in the arrest of seven persons who tried to enter the country illegally. [Excerpt] [*Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 11 Mar 85 p 2 GF*]

UK Envoy Presents Credentials — A ceremony was held today during which His Excellency Sir Peter James Moon presented his credentials as ambassador of the United Kingdom to the State of Kuwait to his highness the amir. [Excerpt] [*Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Mar 85 LD*]

PDRY

Reportage on Chairman's Activities, Visit to USSR

Meeting with Gorbachev

GF141950 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, met with Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, this afternoon in Moscow. At the beginning of the meeting, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, on behalf of the PDRY party, government, and people, extended condolences on the death of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko.

The Soviet side expressed appreciation for the Yemeni sympathy for this great calamity. The ANA correspondent in Moscow has said that during their discussions of a number of international and Arab issues of common concern, the two sides expressed their satisfaction over the existing friendship and cooperation ties between the two countries and readiness to exert efforts to strengthen these ties in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

The meeting was also attended by Brother Salih Munassar (?al-Sulaymi), member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee; and Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynin, member of the Central Committee and minister of transport.

[Aden Domestic Service in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 14 Mar, in a similar report on the meeting, adds that also attending the meeting was "Andrey Gromyko, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs."]

Receives YAR Prime Minister

GF141418 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, received at his residence in Moscow yesterday Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister of the northern part. During the meeting, they exchanged views on a number of issues concerning the Yemeni people with regard to the progress of implementation of unity steps, and coordination committees between the two parts. They also discussed regional and international developments.

During the meeting Chairman 'Ali stressed the joint effort that Yemen could make toward the just causes of our Arab peoples, foremost of which is the Palestinian cause. He said that this contribution could be made through an invitation by the southern part to hold a summit conference of states of the steadfastness and confrontation fronts, in view of the current difficult circumstances confronting the Arab struggle. He stressed that Arab energies and (?material resources should be mobilized into a joint Arab effort) toward rendering successful the liberation causes and uniting the forces of the Arab struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

Returns to Aden

GF150620 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Aden, 15 Mar (WAKH) — 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, returned to Aden from Moscow at dawn today after he participated in the funeral of the late Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko, who died on 10 March.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad exchanged views in Moscow yesterday with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on issues concerning the two countries and the international situation.

Deputy Prime Minister Returns From Ethiopia

GF141610 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Brother Yasir Sa'id Nu'man, YSP Central Committee member, deputy prime minister, and minister of fish resources, today returned to Aden from Addis Ababa following a visit to Ethiopia that lasted several days. During his visit he conveyed a message from Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, to Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the Workers Party of Ethiopia, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Ethiopian Revolutionary Armed Forces. The message concerned relations between the two friendly countries.

He was received at the airport by Brother 'Abd al-Wahab al-Sharaf, deputy minister of fish resources.

GDR Delegation Arrives in Aden 14 Mar

GF141730 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] A GDR party and government delegation arrived in Aden today on an official and cordial visit to our country that will last several days. The delegation is led by Comrade (?Krenz), deputy secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED]. The purpose of this visit is to strengthen friendship ties between the YSP and SED and our country and the GDR on the basis of the friendship and cooperation treaty signed between the two friendly countries. The delegation will hold discussions with party and state officials on coordination of joint stands on various regional and international political developments.

The GDR delegation was received at the airport by Mahmud al-Najashi, member and deputy secretary of the Central Committee; Muhammad 'Ali 'Imayah, deputy foreign minister; and Comrade Geunther Neumann, GDR ambassador in Aden.

DFLP's Hawatimah Arrives in Aden 14 Mar

GF141604 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Brother Naif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, arrived today in Aden following a visit to Ethiopia that lasted several days. ANA has said that during his stay in Aden, Brother Hawatimah will hold discussions with the political leadership of our country on current developments in the Arab region, especially developments on the Palestinian arena.

He was received by Brother 'Abd al-Hamid Ahmad Sa'id, Central Committee member and deputy secretary, and a number of other officials of the YSP Central Committee Secretariat.

Algerian Officials Hold Talks in Aden

GF141554 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The first session of talks between a YSP delegation, led by Brother Mahmud al-Najashi, member and deputy secretary of the YSP Central Committee, and an FLN delegation, under Brother Bachir Khaldoun, member of the FLN Standing Secretariat, began today at the YSP Headquarters.

During the talks, Brother al-Najashi expressed the great pride and appreciation which our Yemeni people have for the fraternal Algerian people, the heroic struggle which they undertook to deliver themselves from French colonialism and to achieve national independence, and their determination to continue the struggle in order to defend Algeria's national sovereignty and achieve development and progress in accordance with the choices defined by the FLN National Charter. He affirmed his constant desire to develop relations between fraternal PDRY and Algeria, and between the two parties and peoples [words indistinct] and the Arab peoples against imperialism, Zionism, and reactionism.

Briefs

Envoy to Bahrain — Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, has issued a Supreme People's Council Presidium resolution appointing brother 'Abd al-Wahid Muhammad Fari' as PDRY nonresident ambassador and minister plenipotentiary to Bahrain. [Summary] [*Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Mar 85 GF*]

Deputy Information Minister Appointed — Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, issued a decree appointing 'Izz al-Din Muhammad Bashshar deputy information minister. [Summary] [*Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Mar 85 GF*]

YAR

Chairman 'Abd al-Ghani Meets Tikhonov in Moscow

GF142030 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the Standing Committee, met in Moscow today with Nikolay Tikhonov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. During the meeting, the brother chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the Standing Committee conveyed — in the name of the YAR leadership, government and people — condolences on the death of the late Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko. Tikhonov expressed his gratitude for the sincere feelings expressed by our country on the death of President Chernenko. During the meeting, the two sides also discussed relations between our country and the Soviet Union.

TASS has reported that the two sides expressed satisfaction with the continuous development of relations between the two countries. They stressed the importance of the joint moves in the direction of bolstering and cementing these relations in such a way that serves the interests of the two friendly peoples.

The meeting was attended on the Yemeni side by Lieutenant General 'Abdallah al-Bashiri, chief of staff and member of the Standing Committee; Brother 'Abd al-Latif Dayfallah, member of the Consultative Council; and 'Abd al-'Uthman, our ambassador in Moscow.

On the Soviet side, the meeting was attended by Victor Malstev, first deputy foreign minister.

Mubarak Interviewed by ABC Television Network

NC142141 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Washington, 14 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak opened his interview with America's ABC television network, which aired it this morning, by saying that the ball is in the court of Israel and the United States and that there is now a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. In his interview, President Mubarak urged the United States to deal with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and to abandon its fear of the PLO. Let's face reality and be realistic. Israel enjoys guarantees from both superpowers and has diplomatic relations with Europe and all the world's countries. Therefore, how can anyone logically say that the PLO wants to destroy or eliminate Israel? That's absolutely illogical.

In response to ABC's request to his excellency, President Mubarak addressed a few words to those Americans who think all this will be in vain, as extremists in the PLO will destroy everything. He said: I assure you that those who say this are dreaming. PLO members are human beings. Give them their rights and let them feel secure. They have their human rights. Take them unto yourselves and solve their problems. I believe this is extremely important. However, by ignoring them on the basis that they will destroy everything and by continuing to say this, you will be standing idly by waiting for the danger to start again.

President Husni Mubarak answered a question on his conviction that the Palestinians and the PLO will deal with the entire operation in a completely sound way by saying: I can't speak to you about guarantees now, however, I did tell you that it is better to have a dialogue, a simple dialogue, to test the assurances and guarantees they can give. President Mubarak added: I am certain that if talks take place, they will achieve a great deal. Consequently, substantial progress will be made toward achieving a comprehensive solution.

Replying to a question on whether this would require the United States to abandon its commitment to Israel, the president said: I spoke with a number of American officials about this. There's a new factor now. I'm not asking the United States to hold direct negotiations with the PLO, but we now have a new factor in the form of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and the joint delegation. I believe it is very important that we begin a dialogue, and not negotiations, now.

Responding to a question on the return of Egypt's ambassador to Tel Aviv, President Husni Mubarak said: There are three points that must be solved. The first concerns the withdrawal from Lebanon. Good moves are now being made to accomplish this withdrawal. It will be better for them if they withdraw from Lebanon. President Mubarak added: The second point concerns the activation of the Palestinian issue. This is what we're doing now and much remains to be done. The president continued: The third point concerns the Tabah problem. Tabah has an area of 800 square meters. A hotel has been built there and there is no other treasure. Despite this, it is causing problems and fomenting some sort of hatred between the Egyptian and Israeli peoples. Tabah is a national issue as important as the capital of Egypt.

ABC asked President Husni Mubarak to answer certain Israelis who view the strengthening of Egypt's military might as a threat to Israel. The president asked: Why do the Israelis strengthen their Armed Forces and why does Israel ask for more military equipment? The Israelis must realize that we signed a peace treaty, that we are committed to peace, and that we honor our obligations. President Mubarak added: However, we face other threats. There are threats in the region. There are, for example, the events between Iran and Iraq. You know our neighbors. There is another problem in southern Sudan and there are many other factors in the region. Therefore, we must be prepared.

Asked whether he expected Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to attack Egypt, Sudan, or Tunisia, President Husni Mubarak said: I think it would be difficult for him to attack Egypt. I also believe he fully understands this and that he wouldn't dare do anything against Egypt. Despite the fact that Egypt fears nothing, we should, naturally, be prepared.

Answering a question on possible arms purchases from the Soviet Union, President Mubarak noted: Our requests to buy spare parts from the Soviet Union for the weapons we still have have not stopped and will not stop.

Answering a final question as to what Egypt will offer the United States in return for its aid, President Mubarak declared: The United States is a good friend of Egypt. We don't deal with each other on a commercial basis. We would like to have a good, solid friendship with the United States.

ABC began its interview with President Husni Mubarak by stating: President Mubarak's efforts are tantamount to a revival of hope for peace in the Middle East and are an attempt to solve the Palestinian problem following the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. This is what prompted U.S. President Ronald Reagan to praise these efforts.

U.S. Position on Peace Talks 'Positive Sign'

NC141753 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "An Objective Assessment of President Mubarak's Talks in Washington"]

[Text] We can, with all objectivity, say that President Husni Mubarak's talks with U.S. President Reagan and other senior U.S. officials on the Palestinian problem and the Middle East situation in general turned out as expected.

No one expected the United States to recognize the PLO immediately or to enter into negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation right away. At this point, we expected the U.S. President to say exactly what he said after his talks with President Mubarak; namely that the Egyptian proposals promote renewed interest in the Middle East peace process and in positive and constructive participation in it. President Reagan also stressed that negotiations should be based on the international resolutions that provide for the return of occupied Arab territory and the recognition of Israel's right to live in peace.

At this point, we must stress that the U.S. President said these negotiations should lead to the restoration of the Palestinians' legitimate rights and that the United States is committed to peace in the region.

Everyone knows that the Middle East peace process is extremely complex. This stems from the fact that regional developments since the establishment of Israel have forced every country, including the United States, to take certain positions in light of given circumstances. On reviewing these circumstances, we discover a very important fact; namely, that these positions have often changed in response to changed circumstances. No one can ignore the fact that we are now seeing new developments in the region.

The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, for instance, has totally changed the situation. It is enough to refer here, by way of evidence, to the favorable change taking place in the Israeli position itself. This brings us to the close connection between the U.S. and Israeli positions. It would be wrong to assume that the United States would take a position on the Middle East situation without taking Israel's stand into account. As we know, the two countries are bound by a strategic agreement. In addition, there are other highly important factors that have a strong impact on U.S. policy. These include America's vital interests in the region and the positions taken by the Arab countries. It would also be naive to assume that Washington would ignore the Soviet position. What we are saying is that the United States won't make any hasty decisions on a problem of such gravity as the one in the Middle East. This is not the way things happen in politics. The mere fact that the United States stressed that any peace talks should be based on returning the occupied territories and on restoring the Palestinians' legitimate rights is, by all means, a positive sign.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Views U.S. 'Wait-And-See' Attitude

NC150746 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 15 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Grave Consequences for the Current Chances of Peace," *AL-JUMHURIYAH* cites Mubarak's statement that any careful examination of the situation makes it clear that vital U.S. interests will be significantly affected unless the Mideast problem is solved as soon as possible and that the United States would suffer more than any other country outside the region from increased tension in the Middle East.

This, the paper said, is a subjective assessment of area developments, from which it can be concluded that the wait-and-see attitude adopted by some people in Washington can be explained in only two ways: The first is that its proponents are incapable of assessing developments and grasping their true meaning and therefore could not understand the scope of the change taking place in the area as a result of the 11 February Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, which offers a genuine possibility of peace.

The second explanation is that the advocates of this wait-and-see attitude are subscribing blindly to the hardline Israeli view that insists on expansion, aggression, the denial of Palestinian rights, and gain through armed force.

AL-JUMHURIYAH goes on to say: Whether the proponents of the wait-and-see attitude in Washington fall into either the first or second category, they lack any true understanding of the interests of the United States itself.

President Husni Mubarak Visits United Kingdom

For Cairo and London coverage of the visit to the United Kingdom by President Husni Mubarak, including his meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, see the United Kingdom section of the 15 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Prime Minister 'Ali To Visit Romania in Late March

AU142100 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 2015 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES 14/3/1985 — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, prime minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, will pay an official visit to Romania as guest of Constantin Dascalescu, prime minister of Romania, in the last dedace [last ten days] of March.

Ugandan Defense Minister Meets With Ghazalah

NC141459 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, received Paulo Muwanga, Ugandan vice president and minister of defense, this afternoon. The Ugandan official, who is on his way home from Europe, arrived in Cairo earlier today for a 1-day visit. He will hold talks with senior Egyptian officials on several topics of mutual interest.

Ugandan Defense Minister Leaves

NC150944 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA) — Paulo Muwanga, Ugandan vice president and minister of defense, left Cairo for home this morning at the conclusion of his 1-day visit to Egypt. He was seen off at the airport by Dr Wajih Shindi, minister of tourism and civil aviation.

Reportage on Military Conflict With Iran

President Visits Front

JN141620 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1605 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, accompanied by Staff General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs, returned to Baghdad this evening after inspecting the battlefront where he met with Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, the chief of staff, and several field commanders. After issuing the necessary instructions with respect to the fighting raging in the East Tigris operational sector, President Saddam Husayn was seen off by the deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the chief of staff, and ranking officers.

Our heroic fighters renewed the vow to the leader president to remain loyal to their pledge to the people and to their leader to defend Iraqi territory and the dignity of the Iraqi sons and to defeat the enemy remnants.

Communique No 1,770

JN141811 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1710 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,770 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 14 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The only reward for those who seek to harm Iraq and our people is to be killed by Iraq's fire. The only reward for those who reject any noble call for peace and right is to be crushed under the feet of the Iraqis, those who fight oppression. Iraq has never forgiven and will never forgive any rancorous and covetous foreigner. Iraq has never been a satellite but an example of good and a pioneer on the road to freedom and progress.

Our call for peace was not made because we were afraid of them. They are so weak that they cannot harm Iraq's loftiness. There will be no mercy for those who do not deserve it, and none of them deserves mercy. We called for peace, inspired by our pan-Arab values. However, they were incited by the devil, and once again tried to desecrate our territory. Let them now reap the results of their intentions and actions. Let them taste death in large doses.

Let Khomeyni, the charlatan of the age and the one who is fanning the fire of sedition, and the evil clique surrounding him know that they have butted their heads against a wall as strong as rock. They have ignited a fire and have become its fuel. The strong hands of the Iraqis are pushing their remnants to hell, and this is the fate they deserve.

The following is a roundup of the activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Our valiant Armed Forces continued to destroy and exterminate the retreating enemy forces. Our valiant forces continued to advance on all the axes of operations while the enemy forces are retreating, confused and terrorized.

With God's help, the Al-Humayun area was completely purged of the enemy's desecration this morning. At the same time, our valiant forces completely purged the Al-Sakhrah area, and exterminated all the enemy forces, except those who fell captive. The enemy sustained and continues to sustain very heavy losses, totaling thousands of troops, large numbers of prisoners, and the destruction of large quantities of weapons and military hardware.

We warn the remaining enemy force against the consequences of staying on the edges of the Hawr. They must either withdraw immediately or surrender to our forces. Otherwise, not a single one of them will escape certain death. Blessed be the staunch men and congratulations on your victory, O Iraqis. Proceed forward to dismember the remaining forces of the rascal Khomeyniites. We thank God for granting us victory.

2. The aircraft of our Air Forces all day today poured their angry fire on the Khomeyniite regime's military concentrations, military hardware, and weapons, leaving them a heap of ashes. Our hawks carried out 268 combat missions today, after which they returned safely and triumphantly.

3. The hero knights of the helicopter gunships continued to pursue the collapsing enemy remnants all day today in the East Basra operational sector and the Maysan sector, inflicting the heaviest losses. Our hero knights carried out 194 air sorties during which they destroyed a large number of boats. Confirmed enemy losses amount to 88 boats, large numbers of infantry positions and troop assembly points, and 3 hideouts. Our helicopter gunships returned safely and triumphantly to base, praise be to God.

4. So that the criminal Iranian rulers, the merchants of destruction and the symbols of sedition, realize that any transgression against Iraqi cities will cost them dearly, the aircraft of our Air Force, since dawn today, have carried out a series of successful raids against selected targets in major Iranian cities. These targets are the area in Tehran where the chief of charlatan resides and the cities of Tabriz and Kermanshah. The lofty hawks of the air accurately hit their targets and safely and triumphantly returned to base, while the Iranian rulers raised their voices, lamenting their losses, as if the war should be a picnic for the frustrated. Let them suffer the consequences of the war since they wished it and insisted on prolonging it.

5. In implementation of our firm course of besieging Khark, our hawks of the air accurately and effectively hit a large maritime target at 0600 [0300 GMT] today and returned with their aircraft safely and triumphantly, praise be to God.

6. An enemy F-5 plane tried to violate our international borders in the Al-Shib area. Our valiant ground defenses men from the IV Army Corps confronted it, and shot it down in front of our positions at 1340 today. Our units in the East Basra operational sector also shot down a pilotless plane.

7. Our forward units, using artillery and all types of weapons, pounded enemy positions, troop concentrations, and weapons

emplacements in the East Basra operational sector and the central sector of the battlefield, destroying six infantry positions whose occupants were killed, and one 106mm gun mounted on a vehicle.

Our units also engaged an enemy force, estimated at 60 vehicles, destroying them and hitting most of their occupants.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 March 1985

Al-Baydah Area Regained

JN151145 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1105 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our triumphant forces are continuing their advance on the various axes in the sector east of Tigris. The enemy's collapse is now apparent. Its forces are retreating in front of our forces. Our courageous Air Force men have poured the fire of your anger, O Iraqis, on the nemy forces and equipment, both on land and on the water. They cut off its supplies and scattered the bodies of its soldiers everywhere. The enemy suffered thousands of casualties.

We carry good tidings for you, O glorious Iraqis. Your brave men from the heroic 27th Brigade, under the command of Staff Colonel Husayn 'Abddai, accompanied by Staff Lieutenant Colonel Sa'd Raddam, were able to completely purge the Al-Baydah area of the enemy filth, and to completely wipe out enemy forces except for those who were taken prisoner.

Our storming of the enemy positions was spearheaded by the regiment of Major Bashir 'Ubayd and the company of Fist Lieutenant Ahmad Madi Muhammad.

Thus, our forces have completely purged all of the edges of Hawr al-Hawizah, north of Lisan ('Ujayrid). The situation in this area is in favor of our forces.

Blessed are the brave men — commanders, officers, and men. Go forward to new victories. God is our supporter; He is the best of supporters.

[Dated] 15 March 1985.

Entire Al-Baydah Area Regained

JN151117 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1107 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA) — The Iraqi forces have completed purging the northern edges of Hawr al-Hawizah and have regained the entire Al-Baydah area.

Stating this today, an Iraqi military spokesman noted that the Iranian forces in the area were completely wiped out, except for those taken prisoner.

Basra Shelled; Civilian Casualties

JN150832 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0817 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Basra, southern Iraq, 15 Mar (INA) — The city of Basra is under continuous, intensive Iranian artillery shelling for the second day today.

The INA coorespondent says that Iranian artillery continued to shell the city's residential areas this morning, inflicting casualties on the citizens and destroying civilian establishments.

Planes Raid Arak, Hamadan

JN151443 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1432 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In reply to the Iranian regime's barbarism and its inhumane practices of shelling secure civilian areas, the aircraft of our gigantic Air Force carried out fierce raids against selected targets in Arak and Hamadan between 1200 [0900 GMT] and 1230 today. All our aircraft returned safely to base after accomplishing their duties in an accurate manner, praise be to God.

Let the Iranian rulers receive the punishment they deserve for their actions, and let them burn in the fires which they have ignited. [Dated] 15 March 1985

Iranian POW's Evacuated

JN141442 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1435 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA) — INA has learned that large numbers of Iranian POW's were evacuated to the rear lines today. An Iraqi military field commander stated earlier today, after regaining the areas of Al-Humayun and Al-Sakhrah on the edges of Hawr al-Hawizah, that Iraqi forces captured large numbers of Iranian soldiers and wiped out most of the forces that were stationed in the two areas.

Commander on Al-Hawizah Battle

JN150821 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0758 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA) — The commander of the Musa ibn Musayr forces has asserted that his forces are in full control of Al-Sakhrah and Lisan ('Ujayrid) in the Hawr al-Hawizah area, after purging them of Iranian forces. In a statement released here today, the commander added that his forces continued to destroy and crush what is left of the Iranian forces and their remnants in Haw al-Hawizah.

The commander said that Iraqi tanks were used for the first time in areas that are not suitable for tank movement, and that his forces were able to carry out their tasks over a 15 square kilometer area in 3 hours. He described the Iraqi forces' oper-

ations in that area as unique and heroic in terms of both confrontation and storming.

Sa'd Forces Commander on Battles
JN151012 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0925 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Statement by Staff Brigadier General Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi, commander of the Sa'd forces, to an unidentified radio correspondent in the Sa'd sector of the front; date not given — recorded]

[Text] The Iranian ruling clique in Tehran and Qom have attempted to desecrate the homeland's soil in the sector east of Tigris.

They sent large numbers of frustrated soldiers to implement their mean designs on the chaste Iraqi soil after more than 1 year of preparation. Our units that are stationed east of Tigris confronted these forces.

Therefore, the Armed Forces General Command assigned the Sa'd forces the task of launching a counterattack on the enemy in this sector.

The heroic Sa'd forces, both officers and men, had the honor of carrying out the orders of the the Armed Forces General Command headed by the symbol of the Arabs, Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn.

They carried out the counterattack. After fierce fighting, we destroyed most of the enemy forces and besieged it in an area of death that was prepared for this purpose.

We are now destroying the enemy's defeated remnants, with God's help and thanks to our heroic fighters' high morale, despite the fact that the enemy is continuing to reinforce its forces.

Our forces were able to destroy two-thirds of the enemy's attacking force, which is now stationed in front of the sector for which we are responsible.

This is due to the predetermined plan, which is being successfully implemented in accordance with the Armed Forces General Command's instructions. The enemy began retreating before our brave soldiers.

The battlefield is full of the corpses of the treacherous Persian aggressors. The only ones remaining alive are those who fled in humiliation and those who preferred to become prisoners rather than return to the Iranian rulers in ignominy.

On this occasion, we pledge to the political leadership, led by our leader, the pride of the Arabs, Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, and the Iraqi people that we will sacrifice our blood in order to preserve the national soil and the gains of our powerful revolution. Victory comes from God.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz Visits France

For Paris and Baghdad coverage of the visit to France by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, including his meetings with French President Mitterrand and External Relations Minister Roland Dumas, see the France section of the 15 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

RCC Vice Chairman Returns From Moscow
JN141456 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow, 14 Mar (INA) — RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim has returned to Baghdad from Moscow after attending the funeral of late Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko here yesterday.

Taha Yasin Ramadan Confers With PRC Minister
JN141256 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received Rui Xingwen, PRC minister of urban and rural construction and environmental protection, and his delegation at noon today.

They discussed areas of cooperation between the two countries in the service of the joint interests of their friendly peoples.

Oil Delegation Returns From Visit to Turkey
JN111433 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA) — 'Abd al-Mun'im Hasan 'Alwan, Oil Ministry under secretary, and his delegation returned to Baghdad today after a visit to Turkey that lasted several days.

The Iraqi official told INA that during the visit to Turkey he met with the minister of Finance, the minister of Customs, and theminister of state for Energy Affairs and Natural Resources, and reviewed several issues related to oil and energy affairs between the two neighborly countries. He added that the Turkish side expressed its readiness to carry out oil and energy projects in cooperation with the Iraqi side.

While in Turkey, 'Abd al Mun'im 'Alwan headed the Iraqi side to the second round of talks between the Iraqi Oil Ministry and the Turkish Potash Company, which is in charge of implementing the Iraqi oil pipeline passing through the Turkish territories.

This round of talks dealt with issues related to expanding the second Iraqi oil pipeline. He said that during the coming weeks a final agreement will be reached on the principles and economic bases for the implementation of the project which will increase the Iraqi crude oil export capacity by 500,000 barrels per day, bringing the capacity of the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline up to 1.5 million barrels per day.

Al-Jummayil Reportedly Proposes Union With Syria

NC141448 Paris AFP in English 1435 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Paris, March 14 (AFP) — Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil proposed a Lebanese-Syrian confederation during a visit to Damascus a few weeks ago, the pro-Iraqi magazine *KULL AL-'ARAB* reported in its latest issue here today.

Following Mr. al-Jumayyil's official visit to Damascus, Syrian Vice-President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam traveled to the Lebanese summer presidential residence at Bikfayya for talks aimed at promoting a settlement to Lebanon's domestic crisis, official sources said at the time.

Recently, Lebanese politicians considered close to Syria called for unity between Lebanon and Syria, but Lebanese Christian leaders, including Christian militia commander Fu'ad Abu Nadir, rejected that call.

A pro-Iraqi weekly, *AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI*, reported in its latest issue that Syria had demanded total cooperation from Lebanon on defense, security and economic affairs in exchange for a domestic settlement.

KULL AL-'ARAB also said Mr. al-Jumayyil had suggested adoption of a federal system in Lebanon with political decentralization but no division of the country — a proposal backed by Lebanese Christians.

Confederation With Syria Denied

LN151233 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Lebanon's ambassador in Paris, Farug Abi al-Lam', has said that news agency reports that the Lebanese president has asked Syria to establish a confederation between the two countries are false in part and parcel.

The ambassador added that such an issue was not discussed at any meeting or at any level among the Lebanese and Syrian officials. He asserted that such rumors are tendentious and aimed at creating confusion among people.

Al-Jumayyil Receives Message From Al-Asad

NC141638 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil received [Syrian] Major General Muhammad al-Khuli at noon today. Al-Khuli delivered a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the current situation. President al-Jumayyil gave Al-Khuli his response to President al-Asad's note. Al-Khuli's visit comes after last night's telephone call between the Syrian president and President al-Jumayyil.

While at the presidential palace in B'abda, Al-Khuli called Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. They discussed current developments.

Further on Factional Dispute in Phalangist Party

'Uprising' Issues Statement

NC141407 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Statement by the Lebanese Forces Uprising — the Christian Decision Movement (Harakat al-Qarar al-Masihi); issued on 14 March — read by announcer]

[Text] There have been many questions recently about the fate of the independent decisionmaking of the Christian society and to what extent indecision in this regard will continue. Has the Christian society lost the initiative forever? Has the spiritual and institutional uprising crystallized by the policies of Bashir al-Jumayyil been forgotten? Have the Christian consultative and decisionmaking bodies been paralyzed or have they been rendered unsuitable by the development of events? At any rate, what is the alternative?

Some are saying that the alternative involves the political settlements that are being firmed up. Others are talking about substituting regional guarantees, following the failure of international guarantees. Such matters can be debated, but the only certain thing is that no serious political solution can succeed without a coherent balance of power, a clearly defined political strategy, and independent decisionmaking, free of any overseers. The recovery of decisionmaking and of its social centralization is the only proper framework, enabling us to enter into any serious negotiations that can lead to the desired peace. We reject peace established through subservience to the will of others.

All of the above questions have been answered by the Christian Decision Movement, which constitutes the organized expression of the foundations of representative Christian establishments and their commitment to the recovery of independent decisionmaking and their initiative. We will not remain silent from now on, except about our independent decisionmaking. There will be no guarantees except policies that will reflect this decisionaking and will direct it toward trends that reach both institutions and individuals. From now on there will be no security for the Christian society, which is dependent upon changing international and regional policies. From now on there will no longer exist a political will that is linked to the moods and dispositions that govern the rules for political dealings in this always suffering homeland. From now on, there will no longer exist a Christian society whose will is paralyzed and which is not allowed to be its own master in a local and regional environment governed by violent conflicting strategies and fed by all kinds of fundamental currents.

The basis for dealing objectively with the reality that we are describing is clear. It can be summed up as follows: Any behavior can be met with firmness, and efforts to control and divide cannot be countered except with a clearly-defined political commitment and the appropriate executive tools. Negotiations can be made possible and dealings with all local and regional parties and blocs can be made reasonable by reimposing control over Christian decisionmaking, directing its strategic goals, and controlling its executive organs. Otherwise, we will be heading downhill, which will destroy what is left of our rigor, credibility, and effectiveness.

The Christian Decision Movement believes that the formulation of new frameworks for dealings and negotiations has become a fundamental prerequisite for the process of restoring independent Lebanese decisionmaking, capable of confronting the 2d decade of our bitter conflict. There is only one way to do this:

1. To reorganize the frameworks of our Christian organizations and institutions;

2. To base the security of the Christian society on new foundations, as follows: a) healthy, independent, institutional, and central Christian decisionmaking; b) a framework for coordination, consultation, and evaluation that will include various social and church figures; c) integrated socioeconomic strategies for overcoming the present difficulties and, more important, for correcting the infrastructure in a way that will guarantee its economic and social effectiveness; d) legitimate institutions that will exercise their overall national representational role; and e) a central and well-defined nominal and cultural identity and parallel cultural and educational strategies.

Christian Lebanese: We are people whose existence is based on a pledge and a commitment to every issue and question concerning the fate of man, whether his dignity or actual freedom are threatened or left without guarantees. There is no predestination in Christianity, there are only decisions based upon evangelical teachings. Let your words on everything that concerns man's dignity, either as a society or an individual, be no, no, or yes, yes.

Abu Nadir Joins Rebels

NC141614 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpts] A wait-and-see atmosphere and a sense of caution prevail in all areas under Phalangist militia control. Large numbers of residents are flowing into West Beirut. Traffic is noticeably heavy at crossing points between the two parts of the capital. Cars carrying women, children, and their belongings are crossing into West Beirut. A number of cars are heading toward safer areas in the north and in Al-Biqa'. This flow of people coincided with a state of maximum alert and a movement of tanks and other tracked vehicles, particularly in Al-Hazimiyah. Vehicles from the two parties competing for sovereignty and influence within the areas under militia control have assembled. These vehicles may be seen in Jisr al-Wati, Al-'Abd Square, Nahr al-Kalb, Dubayyah, Upper al-Matn, and Kasrawan.

These military developments came in the wake of fast-breaking political ones. The most significant of these was the announcement that Dr Fu'ad Abu Nadir had resigned his command in the Phalangist forces and joined the rebels who rose against his leadership under the name: The Forces' Uprising — the Christian Decision Movement. A large meeting was held in Burj al-Khidar in Jubayl. This was followed by a statement confirming Abu Nadir's resignation and entry into the collective rebel leadership. It added that the Phalangist forces have broken away from the Phalangist Party and that a new rebel command council has been formed. This council includes Samir Ja'ja', Fu'ad Abu Nadir, Elie Hubayqah, Joe Iddih, and Nizar Najarian.

The new rebel command has placed itself at the disposal of Mrs Solange al-Jumayyil in her capacity as overseer of the current movement within the Phalangist Party. Consequently, hundreds of people gathered in front of Bashir al-Jumayyil's home to declare their allegiance to his widow and the new rebel command council. Shots were fired near the Al-Rum Hospital to celebrate Abu Nadir's release from there following the resolution of his case and his entry into the rebel movement.

Radio Free Lebanon resumed broadcasting today after dismissing its former director, Sim'an Qazzah, and appointing Joe Iddih as his successor. This followed the formation of an information committee this afternoon.

A meeting was held in Al-Rum Hospital this morning. Abu Nadir, Fadi Afram, and Elie Hubayqah took part. They discussed Abu Nadir's membership in the rebel movement. We have learned that the rebels have decided to boycott the Bkirki meeting scheduled for 1700 today. That session, to be chaired by His Holiness Cardinal Mar Antonios Butrus Khuraysh, planned to discuss the situation in the presence of the members of the committee formed during yesterday's meeting at the presidential palace.

Reopening of Road Threatened

NC141634 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1443 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Our people are asking: Why has the Lebanese Army closed the southern road to Jubayl and Kasrawan al-Nahr al-Kalb and the northern road at Jisr al-Madfun? A security source in the Lebanese Forces Uprising has urged the Army Command to be aware of its national responsibilities and to realize the impact the road's closure has on our people's lives and interests. The source added: If this operation, which has begun to turn into some kind of siege, continues, the Lebanese Forces Uprising will take measures that will lead to the road's reopening.

Rebels Attend Bkirki Meeting

NC141615 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Efforts to overcome the current situation and to consolidate unity and understanding on matters concerning the homeland's salvation are continuing. A meeting is now in progress in Bkirki. Among those attending are: Patriarch Khuraysh, Dr Samir Ja'ja', Elie Hubayqah, Fadi Afram, Tony Bridi, Bishops Nasrallah Nusayr, Roland Abu Jawdah, and Shukrallah Harb, and Abbots 'Ataliah and Najm. The Lebanese Forces Command is represented by Na'um Farah, Fawzi Mahfuz, and Elie Aswad. The committee formed by the Christian conference is represented by Deputies Mikha'il al-Dahir, Ilyas al-Harawi, Khaching Babakian, and Jubran Tawq, former Minister Michel al-Murr, Charles Ghustin, and Abbot Michel al-Hayik. A statement is expected after this meeting.

In the meantime, some of the mass media continue to fabricate stories that are refuted by reality. Total calm prevails in East Beirut and there has been no disruption of security.

Bkirki Meeting Ends

NC142035 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] The meeting held at the patriarch's seat in Bkirki under the chairmanship of Cardinal Mar Antonios Butrus Khuraysh is over. The session was attended by members of the committee formed by the meeting of Christians at the presidential palace. The session was also attended by Dr Samir Ja'ja', Elie Hubayqah, and members of the delegation formed by the Lebanese Forces Command. After the meeting, Bishop Nasrallah Nusayr made this statement on behalf of the participants:

[Begin recording] At 1700 on 14 March, the committee formed by the meeting of Christians on Wednesday, 13 March, 1985, at the presidential palace in B'abda met with Dr Samir Ja'ja', Elie Hubayqah, and a number of commanders from the Lebanese Forces in Bkirki. The meeting took place under the chairmanship of His Holiness Cardinal Patriarch Mar Antonios Butrus Khuraysh. After a discussion of the current situation, it was apparent that the viewpoints of the leaders present could be summed up as follows:

1. The responsible leaders declared that their movement is political and nonviolent. It seeks to guarantee and strengthen the independence of Christian decisionmaking and its comprehensiveness under democratic principles.
2. The responsible leaders declared that they will continue to support all constitutional institutions and to respect the laws in force.
3. The movement arises from the beliefs of a pure Lebanese Christian base.
4. In light of these declarations, the movement is surprised at the closure of those roads which were recently blocked in the face of our people.

After hearing these opinions, the committee will continue its contacts on all levels. This will clear the air and reassure our people. [end recording]

Reaction to Bkirki Meeting

NC142101 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The meeting held in Bkirki tonight, which was attended by Dr Samir Ja'ja', Elie Hubayqah, and a delegation from the Lebanese Forces Command, is over. Bishop Nasrallah Nusayr read a statement after the meeting.

Dr Samir Ja'ja' said the Uprising movement will issue a statement tonight or tomorrow at the latest. He said that in principle he has no comment on the statement issued after the meeting. He announced that the Uprising's position will be included in a statement expressing its opinion on the meeting and the committee's method of operation.

Elie Hubayqah said there are no problems in the field of security beyond the unjustified aggravation of the situation on several fronts. As for the opening of roads, Hubayqah emphasized: The Uprising demands that roads be opened, particularly in certain areas, to normal. [illegible] Lebanese de[illegible] Lebanese th[illegible] guarantees f[illegible]s. He expressed his readiness to return the situation Elie Hubayqah stressed that the independence of ecisionmaking stems from the will of the Christian hemselves and that this independence requires no from abroad or from anywhere else.

Council Forms 'Emergency Committee'

NC150608 [illegible] Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] The L[illegible]ebanese Forces Command Council announced the formation of an emergency committee [hay'at tawari'] during an extraordinary meeting held at the home of Mrs Solange Bashir al-Jumayyil last night. The emergency committee consists of Fu'ad Abu Nadir, Samir Ja'ja', Elie Hubayqah, Fadi Afram, Antoine Bri[illegible]di, Karim Baqraduni, Charles Ghustin, and George 'Udwan. Ge[illegible]orge 'Udwan was appointed secretary general of this emergency c[illegible]committee.

Clashes Occur Near Port

NC150937 [illegible] (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0850 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Sporadic clashes between men of Squad 75 and the forces supporting Samir Ja'ja' have been taking place since this morning for control of the fifth dock in Beirut Port. Gunfire was also reported at the port's ninth and second docks. The port was then closed. Heavy clashes broke out in the Jisr al-Qadi and Al-Karantinah areas. They were renewed at approximately 0850 this morning and intermittent gunfire is still reported in the areas. Military concentrations are continuing in most eastern areas, particularly in the Al-'Abd Square area.

Reports from East Beirut say that renewed kidnappings have occurred at the roadblocks of conflicting parties. It is believed that Butrus Khawand, the Phalangist security official in charge, was kidnapped at a roadblock controlled by Ja'ja'.

Members of the militia requested schools in East Beirut to close. Hundreds of citizens demonstrated near Bashir al-Jumayyil's residence in support of the so-called Samir Ja'ja' movement.

Army Intervenes in Conflict

NC151056 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] The sound of gunfire and shells has been heard for some time now as a result of clashes in the Al-Ashrafiyah and Sinn al-Fil areas. Phalangist gunmen have set up a roadblock in the Olivetti area about 100 meters from one belonging to the Army, stopping vehicles and searching citizens. The above report was confirmed by AFP which said that sporadic firing began at 0100 coupled with rocket explosions in various areas, particularly in Al-Dawrah, Al-Karantinah, and Sinn al-Fil. Clashes intensified between 0600 and 0900 and many gunmen appeared in areas north of the capital. Members of the Army's 83d Battalion have taken up positions around barriers separating the two conflicting groups at Nahr al-Kalb junction. They also will attempt to

position themselves in the Al-Karantinah and Nahr al-Mawt areas.

Meanwhile, two members of the Phalangist forces attempted to provoke a soldier in the Al-Rumaylah area of Iqlim al-Kharrub. He shot and wounded one of them, Salim As'ad Latif from Jun Township, before joining the Army roadblock on Al-Awwali Bridge.

U.S. Comments on Uprising

NC151234 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Lebanese diplomatic sources have quoted U.S. State Department officials as saying that the United States considers the Lebanese Forces Uprising to be an internal movement that has no connection with Israel. The U.S. Administration, these sources added, will content itself with the statement which it issued the day before yesterday supporting the legitimate government in Lebanon. There are also no plans to translate this support into practical steps.

British Metallurgist Kidnapped by 'Armed Men'

HK150216 Hong Kong AFP in English 0208 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Beirut, March 15 (AFP) — Gordon Nash, a 60-year-old British metallurgist, was kidnapped here Thursday by three armed men who forced him into a car, a British Embassy spokesman said. Mr Nash, who was leaving his home in Moslem-controlled West Beirut for his office at the Lebanese Government Industrial Research Institute, has been in Lebanon since 1957, the spokesman said. Colleagues of Mr Nash said the kidnappers might have mistaken the research scientist for an American because his office is close to the U.S. Embassy. Mr Nash is under medical treatment for a cardiac ailment, colleagues added.

Israelis Suffer 'Grave Loss of Life' in Ambush

NC151227 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] At 2300 last night on the outskirts of Kawthariyat al-Siyad the enemy forces ambushed a Lebanese Army patrol that was supported by the Amal movement. In the ensuing clash the Israeli enemy suffered grave loss of life. Hasan Musa, the official in charge of the Amal movement in Kwthariyat al-Siyad; Muhammad Musa, his deputy; and Radwan 'Abdallah of the Amal movement were martyred. Five men belonging to the Lebanese Army were also martyred, inlcuding Junior Warrant Officer Kamal Qasim and Sergeant Hasan Ayyub.

Resistance Operations Against Israelis Detailed

NC141305 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] The confrontation continues between the Lebanese national resistance fighters and the occupation forces and their agents. The savage and bloody Israeli assault on citizens in southern villages, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya grows more vicious and terrorist each day. The Israelis fire randomly on citizens, invade villages, blow up houses, cut roads, and isolate residential areas, all within the economic blockade imposed against the Lebanese people in the occupied territory. These have become daily actions by the Israeli enemy. However, such oppressive campaigns, arrests, and forcible deportation will not weaken the national resistance fighters and citizens; they will only increase their resistance and determination to achieve liberation.

The national resistance fighters carried out six operations against the Israeli enemy and his agents this morning, using machineguns, mortars, and antitank rockets.

The first operation was an attack on an enemy post in Al-Duwayr with rocket and automatic fire. Fire was exchanged for more than 15 minutes. The occupation forces' casualties are unknown, because the area was sealed off. Later, the enemy soldiers arrested several citizens.

The second took place in Al-Nabatiyah, where an Israeli convoy came under machinegun and mortar fire.

The third operation was in Shabriha, where a katyusha rocket was fired at another enemy convoy.

The fourth operation was against an Israeli post near Bidyas; casualties are unknown because the area was sealed off.

The fifth operation was carried out by the national resistance fighters at 1930 yesterday against an Israeli concentration at the Al-'Abbasiyah-Dayr Qanun al-Nahr-Burj Rahhal junction. Mortars were fired at the position for 30 minutes. Eyewitnesses said that the occupation troops left their posts and took refuge in nearby homes.

A short while ago, we received reports of a suicide operation carried out at 2030 yesterday near Batulayh, in the District of Tyre. The outcome of this operation is still unknown. The attack caused the occupation forces to dismantle the Israeli intelligence center in the Al-Buss area of Tyre.

Reports from Tyre say that the occupation forces cordoned off the Al-Buss-al-masakin Al-Sha'biyah road, near the Israeli military governor's headquarters, with barbed wire.

Meanwhile, the occupation forces continued their barbarous attacks on villages. They fired on Kawthariyat al-Siyad from their positions in Al-Numayriyah, hitting several homes.

The bodies of three unidentified people were found in a field between Al-Khara'ib and Al-Zrariyah, in the Al-Zahrani District. The bodies, found by a shepherd, were taken to the 'Ala' al-Din hospital. Half of the citizens in Al-Khara'ib and Irzay have fled their townships in the last 48 hours in fear of savage actions by the occupation forces.

Finally, the occupation forces have deported Lebanese Army Sergeant Muhammad Qansu to the liberated areas after detaining him for 24 hours. He is the brother of lawyer Milhim Qansu, a member of the Amal movement in the south.

Israeli Convoy Attacked

NC141721 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Lebanese national resistance fighters have escalated their operations over the past 24 hours. They used RPG's and machineguns to attack a convoy of Israeli armored vehicles on the Al-Burghuliyah-Tyre Road at noon today. The attack lasted for about an hour. Smoke was seen rising from the burning vehicles in Tyre.

Israelis Begin Dismantling Ansar Detention Camp

NC141730 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] The Israeli forces began dismantling their facilities in the Ansar camp this afternoon. This same equipment will be shipped to Al-Khiyam. While the prisoners were being transferred, Rashid al-Arna'ut and 'Ali Idris tried to escape. The Israeli forces shot at them.

The Israelis searched Al-Zrariyah this afternoon. According to reports from the south, the Army of Southern Lebanon has evacuated the port of Tyre.

Israelis Cordon Off Township in Tyre District

NC150842 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces cordoned off Barish Township in Tyre District at 0530 today by deploying a large force composed of 18 armored vehicles, 2 personnel carriers, a bulldozer, 3 jeeps, and about 200 soldiers. The occupation forces then stormed the township under cover of random gunfire. They assembled the citizens in the school building for interrogation and searched houses.

Islamic Group Demands Firm Stand Against U.S.

NC141519 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] The Islamic Group [Al-Tajammu' al-Islami] has condemned Israel's savage crimes and expressed its resentment at America's action in the Security Council. It demanded that the Arabs adopt a firm and decisive attitude toward the United States and praised the positions taken by our brothers and other friendly states. The group called on Syrian President Lieutenant General Hafiz al-Asad to provide more support for Lebanon's march toward salvation and detente. The group highlighted the seriousness of the attacks directed at His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din and at the homes of former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, His Eminence Ulema Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, and the surrounding areas.

These remarks were contained in a statement issued after the Islamic Group's weekly meeting. The 3-hour session, which began at 1100 today, was held under the chairmanship of His Emenence Mufti Hasan Khalid. Former Prime Ministers Taqiyy al-Din al-Sulh and Rashid al-Sulh; Deputies Jamil Kibbih, Salih al-Khayr, Talal al-Mir'ibi, Zaki Mazbudi, Nazim al-Qadiri, and Zahir al-Khatib; former Ministers Malik Salam and Baha' al-Din al-Bisat; and Dr Husayn al-Quwatli, director of Al-'Ifta' affairs, were also present.

Reportage on Visit by Romania's Manea Manescu

Received by Al-Asad

AU142104 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1945 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, AGERPRES 14/3/1985 — Manea Manescu, member of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, vice-president of Romania's State Council, called, in Damascus, on Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party, president of Syria. On the occasion the Syrian head of state was handed over a message on behalf of President Nicolae Ceausescu. The interview also occasioned an exchange of warm salutes between the tow presidents.

During the interview satisfaction was [expressed] at the ascending course of the friendly Romanian-Syrian relations and highlighted the joint resolve to do everything for a further expansion and deepening of bilateral relations in the spirit of the understandings reached at summit level. To this end the sides agreed to open negotiations between the two governments in view of working out an agreement on the development of Romanian-Syrian economic relations over the 1986-1990 period and further. The sides also approached certain major international issues, particularly the Middle East developments.

On behalf of President Nicolae Ceausescu and Elena Ceausescu, an invitation was renewed for President Hafiz al-Asad and Mme Anisse al-Asad to pay an official visit of friendship to Romanian as soon as possible. The invitation was accepted with great pleasure and the visit will be paid in 1985.

The interview proceeded in a warm atmosphere of friendship, mutual esteem and full understanding.

Meets With Prime Minister

JN142032 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2015 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 14 Mar (SANA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm met with Romanian Vice President Manea Manescu today. Attending the meeting on the Romanian side were members of the Romanian delegation and the Romanian ambassador in Damascus. The ministers of planning, economy, foreign trade, industry, and oil and mineral resources, and the ministers' assistants, attended on the Syrian side.

The prime minister acquainted himself with the results of Manescu's talks with Syrian officials. He expressed satisfaction with these results. The two sides stressed the need to promote cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

Departs Damascus

JN150833 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Romanian Vice President Manea Manescu and his delegation left Damascus at 0900 today following a visit to the country that lasted several days. During the visit, Manescu met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

Khaddam Receives Lebanese; 'Suspect Moves' Discussed

'Indifferent Stand' Not Possible

JN142039 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] In the presence of Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Walid Junblatt, tourism and public works minister, at 2130 today. The talks dealt with the current situation in Lebanon in light of urgent developments.

The two sides agreed that suspect moves are aimed at destroying the national accord policy and at serving Israeli policy in Lebanon and the region. They also agreed that the national duty makes it incumbent on all Lebanese sides to unify their stands in supporting the national unity government and assisting it in implementing its program based on achieving national accord, liberating Lebanese national soil from the Israeli invaders, and eliminating Israeli pillars in Lebanon. The two sides had the identical view that preserving the unity of Lebanon's land and people and its independence is achieved through national accord among the Lebanese sides and not through moves and actions that serve Israel at the hands of elements that are linked to Israel.

Khaddam affirmed that Syria cannot possibly adopt an indifferent stand on any move in Lebanon that is directed from Israel or serves Israel's objectives in Lebanon and harms the Lebanese national interest and pan-Arab interests.

Karami arrived in Damascus from Moscow at 2000 today at the head of a Lebanese delegation. He was received by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm. The talks revolved around the current situation in the region, new developments in the Lebanese arena, efforts aimed at bolstering the march of accord and security, and Syria's firm role in supporting the Lebanese people's national struggle to liberate all their land from Zionist occupation.

Spokesman on 'Suspect Move'

JN151127 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus — An official spokesman has stated the following:

The Syrian Government has considered the recent developments in some Lebanese areas and held contacts with the Lebanese president, the Lebanese prime minister, and a number of Lebanese ministers. It appears that there is a suspect move connected with the Israeli enemy. This move came after the national reconciliation march went a long way. This suspect move against the Lebanese legitimacy and the Lebanese national unity government is aimed at stopping the national reconciliation march, dividing Lebanon, and preventing its unity. While affirming its support for the Lebanese legitimacy and the national unity government, Syria will not adopt an indifferent position toward these developments.

Birri Says Situation 'Serious'

JN151300 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpts] Fourteen hours after the first Syrian warning to the Lebanese Forces' rebels, an official Syrian source issued another warning to the rebels. This second Syrian warning came while Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam was meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami in the presence of Syrian Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm and three Lebanese ministers: Salim al-Huss, Nabih Birri, and Walid Junblatt. Khaddam issued yesterday's warning following his meeting with Karami and Junblatt in Al-Kasm's residence. It is worth noting that Syria has great forces in Lebanon and that these forces are deployed in the north along the direct line of contact with the rebel Lebanese forces.

The meeting in Khaddam's office ended a short while ago, after about 5 hours. Dr Salim al-Huss then left for Beirut by land. Karami is preparing to leave for Beirut by air in a short while. Birri and Junblatt decided to remain in Damascus to complete their consultations. Junblatt refused to comment, but Birri, in an exclusive statement to our radio, described the situation as very serious, threatening the unity of the Lebanese territory and people. Birri added that contacts will continue today and tomorrow, and that messengers are carrying messages between the Lebanese leaders and Damascus. Birri also said that a number of plans and proposals are being discussed, but he refused to elaborate. Birri also said that Walid Junblatt, who was supposed to leave for Moscow today, has postponed his trip in order to closely follow contacts and consultations.

Karami, Delegation Depart Damascus

JN151448 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus — Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami and members of his delegation left Damascus at 1415 today. Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm saw him off at Damascus International Airport.

Cuban Communist Party Cables Ba'th Party

JN141510 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1316 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 14 Mar (SANA) — The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command has received a cable of congratulations from the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party [PCC] on the 22d anniversary of the glorious March revolution.

The cable says the PCC and Cuban people highly appreciate the March revolution, its people, and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party under the leadership of Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, which confronted the imperialist-Zionist onslaught and which is building a society free from foreign exploitation. The cable renewed good wishes for further victories for the Ba'th Party and the Syrian people and expressed sincerest fraternal solidarity.

Lebanese, Egyptian Communists Issue Communique

NC141144 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 13 Mar 85 p 5

[Excerpts] A meeting was held in Damascus recently between delegations from the Lebanese and Egyptian Communist Parties, at which the political situation in the area, particularly in Egypt and Lebanon, was reviewed. Later, they issued the following communique:

A delegation from the Egyptian Communist Party Command, led by Michel Kamil, and a delegation from the Lebanese Communist Party Command, led by Nadim 'Abd al-Samad, met and reviewed developments in the area's political situation, in view of the escalation of Arab national resistance to imperialism's savage assault.

The Lebanese nationalist forces have scored great victories by abrogating the 17 May agreement and compelling the multinational forces to leave. Unlimited Syrian and Soviet support have contributed to the achievement of great victories by the Palestinian revolutionary forces and increased resistance by the Lebanese people, their national forces, and the Lebanese National Resistance Front against the invading Israeli forces. This support also contributed to an uprising by the Lebanese masses, forcing the Israeli invading forces to withdraw from the area of Sidon, and to an increase in popular resistance in the south. These victories presented a practical alternative to the policy involving capitulation and the request for solutions from reactionary regimes and Washington.

These important victories must serve to increase our vigilance and unity. The battle is still on and attempts are being made to minimize these victories and to abort their results. The United States is trying to revive the Arab reactionary forces and is seeking to restore the Egyptian regime's reputation, so that it can play its planned role in furthering U.S. interests. The United States is also seeking to activate its agents in the Arab area in an effort to fragment the nationalist forces, incite domestic dissension, draw the Palestinian rightwing into pacification and surrender, and isolate nationalist steadfast Syria.

The Amman agreement seeks to liquidate the Palestinian issue. The Palestinian rightwing used the slogan of independent decisionmaking to induce its former allies to agree to a practical acceptance of the U.S. plan and ally themselves with the Arab reactionary regimes. It also used the slogan of realism to justify its capitulation. The Palestinian issue is now facing a dual danger: liquidation by further division and fragmentation of the PLO's unity, since the executive forces have abandoned their anti-imperialist policy; and liquidation through the expansion and consolidation of imperialist domination of the area. The two parties believe that it is necessary to stregthen the struggle by overthrowing the Husayn-'Arafat agreement and its annexes.

The Egyptian Communist Party condemned the fascist actions that the Israeli forces have been engaged in in southern Lebanon, with disgraceful U.S. support and the Arab reactionaries' silence. The party called on all forces to effectively support the Lebanese people's effort to achieve the liberation of their territory and the unity of anti-imperialist Arab Lebanon.

The Lebanese Communist Party declared its great appreciation of the Egyptian Communist Party's decisive struggle to close ranks within the Egyptian national movement to defeat the Camp David accords, liberate Egypt from its subservience to U.S. imperialism, and defeat the Mubarak-Husayn-'Arafat plans to promote Camp David and liquidate the Palestinian issue.

The two fraternal parties expressed the need for continued development and consolidation of their relations to serve the struggle of the fraternal Lebanese and Egyptian peoples and to consolidate the forces of the Arab National Liberation Movement.

AL-THAWRAH on 'Failure' of Mubarak's U.S. Visit

JN150731 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 15 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper *AL-THAWRAH* explains the significance of the failure of Mubarak's visit to Washington. It says: The United States wants the Camp David partners and lackeys to implement the U.S. and Zionist plots and carry out their assigned roles. The United States refuses to even discuss the methods by which its agents can implement these roles. It wants petty agents and pawns in the region, so that it can always move them at will. Hence, the false importance that the Camp David agents attempted to attach to Mubarak's visit to Washington is now exposed. These agents tried to prove that the visit was for dialogue with U.S. officials. However, the preliminary arrangements of the visit showed that the president of the Camp David regime carried with him a new list of Jordanian-'Arafatist concessions, including Amman's liquidationist agreement.

However, it seems that Washington wants the capitulationists to offer more concessions. It does not agree to give them even crumbs. Mubarak's visit and its results proved this fact. It has exposed the plotting between the Camp David regime in Egypt on the one hand, and King Husayn and 'Arafat on the other.

Recent developments prove the soundness of Syria's position. Syria warned the capitulationists that their path was arduous, thorny, and full of deadly hazards. It told them that their path would lead only to self-destruction. The French paper *LIBERATION* noted this fact while commenting on the failure of Mubarak's visit to Washington. *LIBERATION* said: President Hafiz al-Asad was right when he repeatedly spoke about the Washington government's lies. President Hafiz al-Asad is the genuine Arab leader in the region.

CRM Sends Congratulations to Gorbachev

TA141353 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 14 mAr 85

[Text] The Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] today sent a letter of congratulations to the new Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev. In the letter the CRM expresses the hope that during Gorbachev's period, peace will be realized in the Middle East, and that relations between the Soviet Union and Israel will be renewed. The CRM asks Gorbachev to release the prisoners of Zion, and to allow them to emigrate to Israel. Knesset Member Shulamit Aloni this week held a telephone conversation with Boris Bigun, son of prisoner of Zion Yosef Bigun, in which she promised that she would act for the release of his father.

Lt Gen Levi Comments on Lebanon Withdrawal

TA150522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi says that at present he has not reached the conclusion that the withdrawal plan and the speed of the withdrawal should be changed, and he has therefore not brought such a plan to the government. The chief of staff says he is not sure that whoever believes that the last two phases of the withdrawal should be combined is aware of the significance of this step. The chief of staff also says that the IDF will not automatically support the local forces which will be deployed in the security zone following the completion of the withdrawal. Such support will be conditional upon operational considerations, and it will have to be reviewed occasionally. The chief of staff made these remarks in an interview to our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal.

IDF Reportedly Raid Shi'ite Village Near Tyre

TA150958 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0952 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] This morning the IDF raided the Shi'ite village of Barish, east of Tyre. The UNIFIL spokesman reported that the IDF forces entered the village at 0530 and are conducting searches there. The UNIFIL spokesman also said that soldiers of the French contingent of UNIFIL are in the village, and are monitoring the IDF activity in the place. The AP correspondent in Tyre adds that the IDF soldiers are carrying out detentions and are searching for weapons in the village. According to the AP correspondent, 150 soldiers and 12 armored personnel carriers are participating in the operation.

S. Lebanese Shi'ite Villagers Welcome Control

TA150534 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] The villagers living in the strip of Lebanese villages adjacent to the international border are preparing for the possibility that the second phase of the IDF withdrawal will be completed within the next few weeks. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the villagers in the area already know that they will be within the security zone in which the army of southern Lebanon will be in charge, under the tight supervision of the IDF. In approximately 200 Shi'ite villages, the continued Israeli control of the area is welcomed. However, the villagers expect Israel to immediately clarify its precise plans vis-a-vis the security zone.

Jordan Rejects Proposal To Appoint W. Bank Mayors

TA150855 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Mar 85 p 1

[Report by Yehuda Litani]

[Excerpt] The Jordanian Government rejected an Israeli proposal to appoint Arab mayors to four West Bank towns which are at present being administrated by Israelis, and instead demanded a "package deal" for the appointment of mayors to other cities. This was revealed by the acting director of the Civilian Administration in the West Bank, Colonel Freddie Zakh, in an interview on an Arabic-language television program last night.

The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent notes that reference is to the towns of Ramallah, Al-Birah, Hebron, and Nabulus, which are being run by Israeli-appointed mayors.

Security sources said last night that the intention to appoint Arab mayors in place of the Israeli ones still exists, but that "time is not pressing." They added that if Jordan persists in refusing to approve the appointments, Israel will probably act unilaterally and appoint Arab notables to the positions as it sees fit.

Jordan Removes Jerusalem Mufti From Post

TA151103 Tel Aviv 'Al HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Mar 85 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The Religious Affairs and Holy Places Ministry in Amman has fired Shaykh Sa'd al-Din al-'Alami from his position as Jerusalem's mufti.

Shaykh al-'Alami also holds the position of head of the holy sites, and will probably be fired from that post as well. The only position he will be left with is that of head of the Supreme Muslim Council.

Our correspondent assumes that Jordan has not been satisfied with the ties Shaykh al-'Alami has developed with Israeli figures on the one hand, and with his far-reaching remarks in favor of 'Arafat on the other.

Regarding the first point, Jordan did not look favorably on the visits to the Temple Mount by Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek and Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev. Jordan also blamed the shaykh for not having prevented the border police from entering the Temple Mount and placing the Israeli flag in the police station there. Jordan apparently felt that during Al-'Alami's time, the Israeli presence on the Temple Mount had grown.

According to Amman, Shaykh al-'Alami's remarks in support of Yasir 'Arafat during the siege on Tripoli deviated from Jordan's policy guidelines on that issue.

Shaykh al-'Alami tried to prevent his dismissal in Amman but failed. He will give up his position at the end of the month. A struggle over the post has already begun behind the scenes between several relatively young religious figures.

Egyptian 'Political' Delegation Arrives 14 Mar

TA141704 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] An Egyptian political delegation arrived in Israel today. It includes eight people and is headed by Dr Kamal Khayr al-Din — whose status is equivalent to that of a deputy minister in the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A delegation of Egyptian scientists is also in Israel at the moment, as part of a plan for agricultural cooperation.

Delegation Said To Be Agricultural

TA141819 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] The Egyptian delegation which arrived in Israel today is entirely made up of Egyptian Agriculture and Food Security Ministry officials, and headed by the ministry's assistant director general. Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that the delegation members will participate in a meeting of the steering committee of the research project for the development of arid areas carried out at the Ben Gurion University in the Negev.

This committee meets regularly every 6 months, and Israeli Agriculture Ministry officials as well as U.S. San Diego University researchers also participate in it. Egyptian sources told our correspondent Egypt attaches importance to these meetings since they can encourage agricultural cooperation between Israel and Egypt.

Moda'i Meets Qeysar on Second Package Deal

TA141930 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] A short while ago Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar met with the finance minister at the latter's Tel Aviv office. Following the meeting Minister Moda'i announced he would act to implement the second package deal in both letter and spirit, and would not allow price rises beyond the level agreed on; namely, between 3 to 5 percent per month. He also announced that he agreed with Minister Sharon to immediately activate a system for quick trials of profiteers.

Our correspondent Asher Schwartz has learned that Yisra'el Qeysar also raised his suggestion that the economy be totally frozen for 2 months, in return for a 6-percent price rise. The finance minister said he would study this proposal.

February Index 13.5 Percent; Reactions Mixed

TA151232 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] The February cost of living index has gone up by 13.5 percent. All the components of the index, except for clothing and shoes, have gone up. Food in particular has gone up — more than 18 percent. The maintenance of apartments went up by 17 percent, and transportation and communications went up 20.5 percent. Our economic affairs correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the index was greatly affected by the price hikes which were initiated by the government during the passage into the second package deal. The cancellation of subsidies had only a minor effect. The impact of this move will be felt in the next index. The Central Bureau of Statistics says that in the March index there is already an increase of between 6 to 7 percent. The consumption basket of the average family now stands at approximately 480,000 shekels per month. The next salary is expected to rise between 14 to 20 percent.

And here are some reactions: Treasury sources say that the increase was to be expected due to the necessity of raising the prices between the two package deals in order to decrease the inflationary pressures. The Treasury expects that there will be a slowdown in price increases in the next months. Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'aqobi says that the package deal must be changed, because in its present form it makes price control difficult. Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar says that the index is not encouraging. He complains that most of the prices affected goods under the control of the government. In a talk with our correspondent Moshe Nestelbaum, Qeysar reiterated his suggestion to freeze prices in the economy for 2 months, and to approve one-time price hikes of between 3 to 5 percent.

The Manufacturers Association says that the index is actually unrealistic, and that in fact it should be between 6 to 7 percent. The rest was caused by the cancellation of subsidies and other price hikes not connected with the package deal. Arnon Tiberg, the director general of the Manufacturers Association, sharply attacked those who are opposed to the second package deal, saying that they do not understand the situation. He claimed that the manufacturers are the only ones adhering to the agreement. He warned that until some of the distortions are corrected, the employers will not cooperate in any discussion. Avner Ben-Yaqar, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, said that the package deal is falling apart. He blamed the government and the Histadrut, saying that they are procrastinating in dealing with just demands of the business sector regarding price hikes.

Paper Analyzes Unity Government's Performance

TA150905 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Mar 85 p 7

[Commentary by Yosef Goell: "Piecemeal Policy"]

[Text] Yesterday was the half-year mark of the Labour-likud government coalition, a convenient point for an interim assessment.

The pundits, with wisdom tinged by rosy-hued hindsight, may seek to project the national unity government as an expression of an outburst of a spirit of unity, of altruistic comradeship, between two major parties with a history of half a century of deep-seated hostility towards each other.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The 25-man cabinet, which convened for the first time on September 14, after seven weeks of earthy political haggling, was the expression of politicians swallowing hard on the hallowed principle of no alternative.

The July 23 elections led to an unprecedented political standoff; it was impossible for either major party and its minor allies to form even a 61-seat coalition. The basic pragmatism of Israel's working politicians — behind all the ideological bluster — was evinced when the leaders of both parties reluctantly accepted an unheard-of arrangement for the division of power, position and other goodies. They did so to provide a government for an Israel faced with two urgent problems: Lebanon and the economy.

The most that can be said to date for the improbable Labour-Likud government is that it is still in power. This, however, should not come as too much of a surprise, as the basic delineations of the electoral standoff are still there, which means that there is as yet no alternative to the present government that pragmatic politicians would prefer.

But how has this hybrid government performed in tackling the two major problems? The answer can only be that it, and the country, are in deep trouble on both counts.

It is often argued that the Peres government's decision to withdraw the IDF from Lebanon in several stages, rather than in one fell swoop back to the northern border, was taken in deference to Likud sensitivities, as the party directly responsible for involving the country in the morass that is Lebanon.

The truth of the matter is that the last Likud defence minister, Moshe Arens, when he took over from Arik Sharon two years ago, already began pulling the army back in stages, with the first stage being the exit from the Al-Shuf Mountains of the Lebanese Druse.

In the present case, too, the decision for phased withdrawal was adopted to permit the testing of hypotheses on security arrangements to ensure the safety of Galilee after the final IDF pullout to the international border.

Arens' attempt to work out an arrangement with the Al-Shuf Druse failed, which was not his fault. Similarly, Yitzhaq Rabin's attempts to work out arrangements with the Beirut government, with the Shi'ites and with a surrogate south Lebanese army, to underwrite the security of Galilee have failed to date, which is not his fault.

The basic problem remains that Israel is too small and its population too vulnerable to permit defending itself from inside Israel.

Had Arens and Rabin been gifted with clairvoyance, they would have decided to pull back much further much sooner. But none of us have that gift and both their decisions for phased withdrawal were correct at the time.

No one knows today whether the murderous Shi'ite suicide attacks will stop once the IDF is back behind the border or whether that move will be taken as an indication of an Israeli loss of nerve, which will invite similar attacks into Israel.

Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has lost no opportunity to drive home the message that no one can guarantee Galilee total immunity from katyusha attacks once the IDF leaves southern Lebanon. On Tuesday night's "Second Look" TV news magazine, Rabin declared that it was essential to seal the border hermetically, but that is no sure preventative against katyusha attacks or even suicide attacks in Israel.

Despite protests to the contrary, there is a very good possibility that if the realities on the ground indicate a Shi'ite determination to carry the attacks into Israel, the IDF will dig into the Al-Litani as a final line. Or alternatively, having withdrawn to the international border, the army will once again break through to the Al-Litani as was done in 1978 under the command of none other than 'Ezer Weizman, then the Likud's defence minister, and of then chief of staff Mordekhay Gur.

At that time the Shi'ite villagers of southern Lebanon were not the enemy, but they fled in droves from the entire area south of the Al-Litani. This time, if the Shi'ite leadership insists on asserting its enmity towards Israel, a digging in on the Al-Litani will in all likelihood be carried out, possibly in conjunction with the driving out of the Shi'ite population, as was the case with the Arabs of the Golan in the final days of the Six Day war, or we will see "violent pacification" of the Shi'ites, akin to what happened in the Gaza Strip in 1971.

What should have been clear in the election campaign last summer, and is clear today, is that neither party has any tested idea as to what should be done and what will work on the ground in Lebanon. Perhaps, the silver lining that one can perceive around the black cloud of Lebanon is that defence policy will reflect pragmatism and be separated from the ideological bluster of the past few years.

The trouble in which the government finds itself in Lebanon is largely a result of objective circumstances. On the economic front the trouble is entirely of the government's own making.

The past six months have been primarily a futile exercise in marking time and contorting policy into pretzels. The government wants to avoid biting the bullet on the two crucial issues — the continued hemorrhaging of the country's foreign currency reserves and the failure to control an inflation rate that has broken through to the three-digit level.

Labour's economic pundits had prepared a radical plan for an economic emergency policy on the eve of the elections. This was firmly shelved by an aghast Prime Minister Peres. What has been adopted as an alternative is a piecemeal policy of gimmicks. There was great enthusiasm over the success of Package Deal I in lowering the December cost-of-living index from a previous high of 24 per cent a month to less than 4 per cent.

But it is clear today that that was a stop gap measure. The February index, which is to be published today, is slated to reach 14-15 per cent with predictions for inflation for the next two months being just as high or higher.

We seem to be back with the horrors of the Aridor years in which an attempt to fight inflation was carried out at the expense of increasing the drain on foreign currency reserves. In the end this proved equally futile in regard to inflation.

Which brings us back to politics. There is general agreement that nothing will change in the piecemeal approach which has proven ineffective, before Labour successfully weathers the Histadrut elections, scheduled for May 13.

The basic problem in switching to an economic emergency policy is the political paralysis at the top. Much has been made of the fact that Prime Minister Peres is taking an unprecedented part in the formulation of economic policy. This is really an expression of the disarray at the highest level of economic policymaking, with Peres and Likud Finance Minister Yitzhq Moda'i being more and more at loggerheads with Economic Planning Minister Gad Ya'aqobi playing the role of backseat driver and Likud Industry and Trade Minister Arik Sharon playing the role of spoiler.

It may be that no coherent economic policy will ever be possible with such a quadrumvirate at the top. It will be replaced only if the government falls, which will occur when one or both of the major parties are ready to take a chance on new elections.

(They were not ready to take that alternative last summer, because all the parties were broke and the money-men blanched at the thought of conducting another expensive campaign.)

But that situation will no longer hold from this summer on. Peres' big advantage is that, to a large extent, he can't determine the timing of the fall of his own government, and the holding of new elections. The alternative of a narrow Labour-led government backed by a rump of the Liberals and the National Religious Party and one of the ultra-Orthodox parties, is apparently no longer in the cards.

The Herut leadership which made the Liberals an offer they couldn't refuse in exchange for agreement on the integration of both parties into a united Likud, knew what they were doing, to make such an alternative no longer feasible.

Briefs

Agricultural Workshop — Deputy ministers and other high officials from 17 Latin American, African, and Asian countries have come to Israel to participate in a workshop on increasing agricultural crops and for other agricultural training. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that the workshop will open tomorrow in the Ruppin College in 'Emeq Hefer, and will last 2 weeks. The deputy trade, industry, and agriculture minister of St Vincent — a tiny Carribbean country — is also among the participants. He also intends to request Israeli economic aid. [Text] [*Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Mar 85 TA*]

Imports Drop in February — A large decrease in imports last month brought down the country's trade balance deficit. According to figures released over the weekend by the Central Bureau of Statistics, the deficit last month totalled $152 million, while in January the excess of imports of goods over exports had amounted to $240 million. Imports of goods totalled $580 m. last month. Adjusting for seasonal factors, this represents a 25 per cent decrease in the level of imports as compared with January. [Excerpt] [*Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Mar 85 p 2 TA*]

Unemployment Statistics — Approximately the same number of persons applied for unemployment compensation in February as did in January, confirming other indications of at least a temporary pause in the steady growth of unemployment since September. The National Insurance Institute [NII] announced yesterday that the levelling off in applications was most significant in the number of first applications by newly unemployed. The 1,250 persons who qualified for compensation by being without work for more than six days in February represented a 14 per cent drop from January's figure. In 1984 the NII received 50 per cent more applications for unemployment compensation than in 1983. Last week the State Employment Service noted that there were 11.3 per cent fewer registered job seekers in February than in January. Officials say, however, that it is too early to tell whether this means unemployemnt will stop rising. [Text] [*Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Mar 85 p 3 TA*]

Finnish Ambassador Presents Credentials — Finland's new ambassador, Osmo Vainola, today presented his letter of accreditation to President Hayim Herzog. Vainola, aged 57, is a veteran Finnish foreign service diplomat. His last post was in Hungary. [Excerpt] [*Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1730 GMT 13 Mar 85 TA*]

ALGERIA

Messaadia, Delegation Depart From Moscow

LD141944 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, the official responsible for the Permanent Secretariat of the Party Central Committee, left Moscow today. As you know, Mr Messaadia represented Algeria at the funeral of President Konstantin Chernenko. The Algerian delegation had political talks with the Soviet delegation led by Ponomarev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and responsible for the international relations department. The talks centered on relations between the two countries and ways of strengthening them. Mr Messaadia also spoke with several heads of delegations present in Moscow, including PDRY President Muhammad 'ali Nasir, with whom he spoke about the problems of the Arab world.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives SFRY Defense Minister

LD141035 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1945 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli 13 Mar (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution today received Admiral Branko Mamula, the federal secretary for national defense in the SFRY, who conveyed to him a message from the Federal Executive Council Presidium of the SFRY. Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and the Yugoslav ambassador in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah attended this meeting.

Sudanese Party Cables Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi

LD131531 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party, the party of the Sudanese national movement, has announced its decision to join the pan-Arab command of the leadership of the revolutionary forces in the Arab homeland against imperialism and Zionism. This was reported in a cable sent by the party Political Bureau to the brother commander of the revolution.

Egyptian Defense Minister Seen Threatening Country

LD141455 Tripoli JANA in English 1400 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 21, March 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Egypt's defence minister, said that Egypti's Army should be ready for any battle.

The state-run Egyptian news agency quoted his statements made yesterday during his meeting with commanders and officers of the 2nd and 3rd Army forces and the commanders of the central military region.

Abu Ghazalah, a military man used to saying the final word, undoubtedly meant what he said, as Western observers and political analysts believe. In the opinion of these, Egypt in the present state has no problems with Israel. According to the Camp David Accords, Egypt has no battles to fight against Israel nor does she have any problems with its southern neighbours. Therefore, the reference to the battles in Abu Ghazalah's statement could only mean aggression is being devised against Libya.

Furthermore, in the opinion of Western observers and political analysts, the aggression is being prepared according to orders from the U.S. Government which, up to now, has failed to stage by itself direct aggression against Libya. The U.S. Government is working on deploying one of its tools, in this case Egypt, for such a purpose.

JANA Condemns Israeli 'Crime,' Western Silence

LD121128 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The Zionist enemy has committed another of his heinous crimes against the innocent inhabitants in steadfast Lebanon. The Zionist enemy exploded a car bomb in the area of Bi'r al-'Abd in the southern suburb of Beirut. The political commentator of JANA has commented on this heinous crime. He says:

We ask: What is the posture vis-a-vis this crime of the Western countries in Europe and America, supporters and backers and financers of what they call the state of Israel, a state, so they consider it, which resorts to acts of treachery against the civilian inhabitants through an explosion in the midst of quarter crowded with children, women, the aged, and men? Should we not ask why all the advocates of civilization and human rights remain silent? Does this silence mean satisfaction and blessing? This is not the first time Israel has resorted to such crimes.

The American silence is not surprising. America is a basic partner in all of what Israel has committed. We are certain that the planning is American and the methodology is Zionist. We know that the United States is the planner and the financer. America is not satisfied with arming Israel with the most modern products of destruction produced by American arsenals and generously giving economic aid that enables it to devote itself to its raison d'etre — wiping out the Arabs. America is not satisfied with just financing, arming, and backing Israel politically, but proceeds with direct participation in the treachery against the Arab inhabitants. America's silence is the silence of one who is happy and who blesses such acts. Events have taught us that whenever Israel carries out an operation, it is rewarded from America by increased financial and military aid.

What is causing astonishment and is unexpected is the continuing Western European silence. A state exploded a vehicle loaded with hundreds of pounds of high explosives in a crowded neighborhood. Hundreds were killed and wounded and houses were wrecked. Does not this at least deserve denunciation? Remember that morning and evening you speak of terrorism fostered by states. What do you call the B'ir al-'Abd crime? How

do you describe Sabra and Shatila and 'Ayin al-Hilwah? What about the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor that was built for peaceful purposes by a country that signed the treaty for non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and had accepted international inspection of its structure? Do the names of Kamal 'Udwan, Muhammad Sa'd, and Kamal Nasir mean anything to you? How long will the preferential view, or the deliberate mix-up, by the civilized of this century last between an honest fighter defending his existance and a usurper wanting to wipe out a nation, erase a civilization, and occupy a territory? Do we have to ask the reason for this silence?

Does wiping away the Arabs constitute a legitimate act, or does it mean what was repeated some time that America and Europe drove the innocent Jews into the lap of Zionism in order to get rid of both the Jews and the Arabs? Will the Western countries then not only remain silent but incite, arm, and back everything likely to increase death and destruction in the Middle East?

Remain silent as you wish; your silence or your words are no matter to us. We know the truth of the slogans you uphold and the values you glorify and your respect for them.

As for us, we tell you: If what Israel committed in Bi'r al-'Abd is not terrorism that deserves condemnation, then wait for the same from those who are defending their existance against barbaric annihilation.

Soviet Friendship Society Delegation Visits

LD141413 Tripoli JANA in English 0933 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 20, March 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — An official of the Foreign Liaison Bureau met yesterday afternoon with the Soviet delegation representing the friendship society currently visiting Jamahiryah.

The meeting took up the issue of backing co-operation through friendship societies aimed at promoting relations in all fields between the two peoples.

USSR Cultural Week Opens

LD141416 Tripoli JANA in English 0954 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 20, March 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Soviet cultural week, an event being held in Jamahiriyah within the frame of consolidating popular relations between the two friendly countries, opened here at the cultural Al-Fateh complex, yesterday evening.

The first deputy of the Armenian Republic's prime minister, also chairman of the Libyan Arab-Soviet friendship society delivered a speech praising relations of friendship between the peoples of Jamahiriyah and the Soviet Union and Jamahiriyah's militant role in support of liberation causes worldwide.

The secretary general of the society also spoke to welcome the Soviet delegation taking part in the cultural week, and lauded relations of cooperation in all fields, linking the two friendly peoples, especially in the cultural field.

The week includes several seminars, art exhibitions, films and other cultural events.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by heads of political missions in Jamahiriyah and members of the Libyan Arab-Soviet friendship society.

MAURITANIA

Foreign Minister Holds Talks in Finland

For reportage on the visit to Finland by Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmed Ould Mignih, including his talks with Finnish Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa and Foreign Affairs Minister Paavo Vayrynen, see the Finland subsection of the Nordic Affairs section of the 13 March Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

MOROCCO

House of Deputies Salutes King's Visit to Sahara

LD142313 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpts] A short while ago, the work of the extraordinary session of the House of Deputies in the City of El Aaiun, within the context of the historic visit by His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, to the Sahran provinces, has ended. The session lasted about 5 hours.

The House confirmed the principled attitudes to the unity of the Moroccan territory and its fate. It also extended warmest greetings in the name of the Moroccan people to its leader, his majesty the king, in light of Morocco's confrontation with aggression. The House saluted the role of the Royal Armed Forces, the auxiliary forces, the Royal Gendarmerie, and the security men who are standing along our Saharan borders to defend the land or to take part in construction and reform. The House sees his majesty's visit to the Saharan provinces as a symbol of close ties in the confrontation and aggression and declares its pride in holding this session on this pure spot of our land.

The House praised the important achievements and the allocations made for them. It also confirmed Morocco's determination to continue to strive for the total liberation of the remaining usurped regions without exception. The House was unanimous in praising the mighty efforts achieved in the Saharan provinces and considered the enthusiastic popular reception accorded by our citizens to their leader, His Majesty King Hassan II, a result of the referendum [as heard] and a confirmation of our country's steadfastness in the face of enemies and opponents.

During this session, the leaders of the political parties condemned the prevarications of the enemies of our territorial unity in all their forms.

During this session, the following spoke: M'uti Bouabid, on behalf of the Constitutional Union; Day Ould Sidi Baba, on behalf of the National Grouping of Liberals; Mahjubi Ahardan, on behalf of the Popular Force; Mohamed Busitah, on behalf of the Istiqlal Party; Abderrahim Bouabid, on behalf of the Socialist Union of the Popular forces; Aly Y'ata, on behalf of the Party of Progress and Socialism; Mohamed Ibn Said, on behalf of the Organization of Democratic and Popular Action. Alami Ajarrani spoke on behalf of the Moroccan Union for Labor; Hussayni al-Kaluni for the Democratic Confederation of Labor; Abderrazzaq Filal on behalf of the General Union of Workers.

Finally, before speaker Ahmed Osman rose to deliver his speech, as is the custom, those present stood to read the first sura of the Koran urging God's mercy on the souls of our martyrs and struggles for our sacred territorial unity. The members of the Cabinet attended this extraordinary session, led by Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani. It was also attended by His Majesty's advisers Ahmed Reda Guedira, Ahmed Bensudah, and Mohamed Arsalan. It was also attended by members of the Consultative Council of Saharan provinces and representatives of veteran soldiers and members of the liberation army for all the provinces; members of the scientific council for the Saharan regions; and youth from the Saharan provinces.

The courtyard of the building where the session was held saw mass demonstrations by inhabitants of El Aaiun in front of the Arab and international press during which they confirmed their loyalty to their land and unity with the mother homeland, Morocco, and their loyalty to His Majesty King Hassan II.

Press Cited on Algerian Foreign Ministry Communique

LD141409 Rabat MAP in English 1243 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Rabat, March 14 (MAP) — "The evolution of the situation in northwest Africa throughout the past nine years of war imposed on Morocco proves that Algeria, always intransigeant, has once again blocked a peaceful settlement of the tension in the region", wrote Thursday the Moroccan daily *AL-'ALAM*, mouthpiece in Arabic of the "Istiqlal Party" (egalitarian).

In an editorial devoted to the communique of the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the recent press conference of King Hassan II of Morocco, the daily recalled that "Morocco has done all it could to put an end to the tension. It has even gone very far by proposing a referendum in its Saharan provinces". "But", went on the daily, "Algeria, who saw in this proposition a fatal blow to its hegemonist schemes, lost no time in concentrating all its efforts to prevent the materialization of such a proposition and in introducing its mercenaries into the 20th summit of the OAU in Addis Ababa".

"In spite of Algerian plots, Morocco has, through its sovereign, HM King Hassan II, reaffirmed its determination to organize the referendum and never abandon its responsibilities, dictated upon it by its belonging to the Maghreb and Africa, at a moment Algeria is reacting to this will by slanderous campaigns to gain time and prepare new diplomatic actions against Morocco", further wrote *AL-'ALAM*.

They conclude, the daily affirmed that "the recent Algerian reaction, claiming attachement to Maghreban unity is nothing but a manoeuvre to deviate attention from its responsibility in the failure of the recent Tunisian initiative to hold a Maghreban summit".

For its part, the *AL-MAGHREB* daily, organ of the "National Rally of Independents" (RNI) current, noted that "Algeria had evidently reacted for the first time to the press conference that HM King Hassan II had held last Friday and during which he had mainly reaffirmed that the referendum remained the sin qua non condition to any solution to the Sahara conflict".

Recalling the terms of the Algerian communique, reproduced by the French news agency "AFP", and which "declared" the "not denunciation of Morocco's intransigeance" and blames Morocco for "placing obstacles in the face of Maghreban concertation", the daily pointed out that "by doing so, Algeria traverses rules on currency — as usual — and discovers, all of a sudden, noble unionist and peaceful intentions and objectives, while Morocco becomes, as it claims, the principal obstacle to peace, stability and progress in the region, and to 'international legality'". *AL-MAGHREB* then points out to the "hypocrisy" of the Algerian communique when it says that "in the meantime, peace has not said its last word, just as the resources necessary to ensure it have not been used up".

"To hear Algiers", concluded the daily, "one would think it was Morocco that has been waging, for almost ten years, an unjust and merciless war against Algeria thus preventing the advent of a new 'era of understanding in the region'".

Briefs

Envoy to Sri Lanka — Rabat, March 14. (MAP) — M. Larbi Mouline, Moroccan ambassador to India, presented Monday his credentials to J.R. Jayewardene, president of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as Moroccan extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to Colombo. [Text] [*Rabat MAP in English 1219 GMT 14 Mar 85 LD*]

SUDAN

Minister Says Iran Behind Fundamentalists

NC142310 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA) — 'Ali Shammu, Sudanese minister of national guidance and information, said that Iran was behind the recent attempt by members of the Muslim Brotherhood to seize power in Sudan. He said that 80 leaders of the Brotherhood, including some who held important posts in the Sudanese Government, have been arrested.

In an exclusive statement to *Al-AHRAM*, which will be published in Friday's edition, 'Ali Shammu noted that there were no members of the Armed Forces among those arrested in the recent crackdown. He added that their arrest was a precautionary measure to prevent the Muslim Brotherhood from seizing power in Sudan.

The information minister added: Recently, and in the wake of legislative decrees, a trend appeared involving certain individuals with backgrounds similar to members of the Muslim Brotherhood. The link continued, and they took positions and acted in a way which required the security forces to keep them under surveillance. They did so to collect information and testimony on them. When things reached a certain point, they were arrested. He explained that this operation was unrelated to the execution of Taha Mahmud, leader of the Republican Brothers, a completely different organization.

Shammu said that the recent visit to Khartoum by U.S. Vice President Bush had nothing to do with Sudan's economic situation. He described what had been said about this as untrue. In this context, he revealed that Sudan was notified of Bush's visit before the report on suspending economic aid was released. He said the visit had been scheduled for 10 February, but that it was postponed to 4 March at America's request.

Shammu said the visit's primary purposes were to learn about African refugees in Sudan and about the famine and desertification threatening seven million Sudanese. Bush's visit was based on his country's sense of responsibility. Naturally, the U.S. vice president's visit to a friendly state like Sudan must include a thorough discussion of bilateral relations.

Central Region Governor Supports Numayri

JN131601 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1457 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Mar (SUNA) — President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri received a cable of support from Central Region Governor 'Abd al-Rahim Mahmud here today. The cable stresses that the Central Region Government and masses stand behind Numayri's brave leadership.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the popular and factional organizations at the SSU Secretariat in the Equatoria Region held a meeting in Juba yesterday morning under (Oliver Moray Benjamin), the secretary's assistant for political and economic affairs, to discuss the statement the president made last Sunday morning on those who are concocting plots under the cover of religion to harm and contain the gains of the revolution. The meeting condemned the moves of that hegemonic group. The masses in Al-Ubayyid also held a rally this morning to express their support for the president's statement to the people. Al-Fatih Bisharah, Kordofan Region secretary and governor, addressed the masses, urging them to be vigilant and to protect the domestic front.

SPLA Radio on 'Numayrism,' Factional Competition

EA141203 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Station commentary, prepared by "the Ideology Committee"]

[Text] The danger of unprincipled alliance. Numayrism is present-day Nazi rule in the Sudan. Which way forward for the oppressed Sudanese people?

Prevailing objective situation in the Sudan clearly reveals that the monstrous edifice of Numayrism is cracking deeper and is bound to collapse and disintegrate soon as a result of ideological and political crises. But what concerns us most from the point of view of revolutionary struggle is the question of causes and the significance of the crises as well as the method of resolving it. The oppressed and exploited Sudanese people cannot but strive for revolution which would destroy the imperialist system of capitalism and which cannot be achieved without the overthrow of the neocolonial regime of Numayri. His one-man ne system dictatorship has borne down heavily on the various sectors of our society.

The Hitlerite junta in Khartoum has been handpicking the Sudanese people for a very long time by buying off (?charismatic) leaders of traditional political groupings to teach their followers to have faith in the rule of bureaucratic petit bourgeoisie by empty assurances of devotion to national reconciliation and by hiding behind the fig of religion. How can the people be asked to trust the petty bourgeoisie when the guarantee of freedom and peace rests on (?protect) a regime, a system that assassinated and mutilated tens of thousands Sudanese masses?

What we are witnessing at present time in our country is peculiar (?sight) of a regime stirring up chauvinism and hatred of one petit bourgeoisie grouping for another, since it recognizes that this sort of conflict of interests is an invaluable means of sowing confusion among the people and diverting their revolutionary aspirations.

The cut-throat competition between Numayri's regime and other factions of the petit bourgeoisie is the outcome of the contradictions of the ruling class which has caught the whole country in a net of Islamic exploitation and politically subjugation of the Sudanese working people. What does it really matter whether the fanatic religious groups or any other petit bourgeoisie factions are retained or overthrown from the present regime of terror, like the Ansars before and now followed by Muslim brothers?

We Sudanese, democratic patriotic and peace-loving forces, are convinced that these Muslims are deceiving the Sudanese masses by promising an honest and just peace when they have been actually prolonging the sufferance of our people. We must get over this (?fact). The present new conditions of brutal [word indistinct] oppression perpetuated by poor imperialist regimes requires a new form of struggle. The bureaucratic petit bourgeoisie in our country have entered upon the path of counterrevolution. Therefore the use of armed struggle is an absolute necessity. A prolonged effort to educate and organize the people behind the SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] in this respect becomes particularly important. We must consistently carry on with this difficult task of preparing the popular masses for constructive people's war. The more consciously and selflessly we undertake this work, the more certain will be the victory in the new struggle against imperialism and its local agents.

The Sudanese working people can be proud of the fact that since 1983, under the vanguard of the SPLA-SPLM, a nation of oppressed, exploited, and humiliated for the first time is becoming an army of the revolution, striking at Numayri's neo-fascism and opportunism. Hence the fight against the traitor to the

liberation of our people must be waged mercilessly, but not on the issue of or for against participation in central or regional governments. This would be a grave mistake, a fundamental departure from the political line of our national liberation movement.

The philistine gang of the opportunistic petit bourgeoisie differ from us not only because they do not organize the armed struggle, and we do. The chief and radical difference is that in all spheres of work they pursue an inconsistent, opportunistic policy, even a policy of downright treachery and betrayal. Thus let us fight against the traitors, against reformism and overt chauvinism. The political line of the SPLA-SPLM can and must be followed without exception in all spheres of our struggle.

The victory over the reactionary forces is inevitable. Socialism will triumph. The struggle continues.

SPLA Radio Views Muslim Brotherhood Leaders Arrest

LD141215 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1900 GMT 13 Mar 85

[From "With the Battalions" program]

[Text] In this program we are going to discuss the current events taking place within the Khartoum regime and our stand on such developments.

The recent crackdown on the Muslim fundamentalists by Numayri is a clear indication that he is committed to hold on to power as long as he sees around him those opportunists who, if offerred positions, would sacrifice the interests of the Sudanese masses in favor of their own individual gains. This is not surprising in fact because Numayri has earlier used reactionary groups and individuals to exploit and oppress the Sudanese people. In the context of this reasoning, it follows that any group or individuals accepting to work with Numayri would be considered, in view of our revolutionary movement, as partners in the crimes committed against the Sudan and its people by the Khartoum regime.

This is true with the Muslim Brotherhood who, in September 1983, went to the streets in support of Numayri, who implemented the Sharia law in the country. Indeed, the Muslim Brotherhood group have been very instrumental in helping Numayri to entrench his corruptive system over our people and to aggravate their sufferings. Now that they are out of the government, the Muslim Brotherhood group should have by now regretted their support which they had previously given to Numayri in return for their full participation in the government.

It now remains to be seen by any other self-centered groups or individuals that their collaboration with Numayri against the Sudanese people is not less than digging their own graves.

However, the trick being played by Numayri to guarantee his long stay in power is well known to SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]. But through the guidance of the SPLM manifesto, the SPLA, which spearheads our revolutionary armed struggle, will continue to fight to restore the rights of the Sudanese people. The SPLA-SPLM is aware of the present activities pursued by Numayri. Therefore, the leader of SPLA-SPLM, Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior, in his recent brief meeting with the SPLA fighters, has reiterated the position of our movement.

In that meeting, the SPLA-SPLM leader said, and I quote: The present war was forced on us by the enemy who does not listen to the cry of the Sudanese people to have their own rights in their own country. He went on to say: The enemy, who rules by use of force or threat, will only understand the language of force. In conclusion, the chairman of the SPLM and commander in chief of SPLA said: The SPLA has no choice but to carry out an armed struggle in order to return all rights to the Sudanese people.

In the light of these statements, the SPLA forces must remain assured that whatever Numayri does will never affect our revolutionary drive to overthrow his one-man, no-system regime and establish a united, socialist Sudan where freedom, equality, and prosperity prevail. We know that the enemy will fight tooth and nail to impose its will upon the Sudanese people, but the reactionary regime in Khartoum should know that the SPLA-SPLM will never seek any accomodation which would only serve the interests of the government at the expense of those of the masses.

Military Transport Plane Crashes; 4 Killed

JN141433 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1405 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Mar (SUNA) — A military transport plane of the Buffalo type crashed this morning when it took off from Akobo Airport in the Upper Nile region. The plane's crew, which included two officers and an NCO, were martyred. This came in the communique the People's Armed Forces spokesman has issued.

The communique pointed out that the plane has been performing routine missions for a week to transport foodstuffs in order to relieve 5,000 refugees who had entered the Upper Nile region via the Ethiopian border.

The defense minister and the commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces announced to the Sudanese nation the death of pilot Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd al-Jalil Mukhtar 'Abdallah, pilot Major al-Tahir al-Badawi Ibrahim, technician Corporal 'Awad Za'id 'Awad Musa, and technician Private Sayyid 'Uthman, who died this morning in the plane crash. They will be immortalized for their contribution to their homeland.

Rebels Say Plane Shot Down

LD141441 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] We have just received the following news flash from the commander in chief in his operational headquarters. SPLA forces yesterday, 13 March 1985, shot down a Buffalo transport plane at Akobo. The commander in chief has sent a message of congratulations to First Lieutenant (Paul Garang Deng), SPLA commander at Akobo, and First Lieutenant (Daniel Yuwal

Makoi, commander of SPLA's ('condor) forces at Akobo. Also, the commander in chief has congratulated all the officers, NCO's and men for this great victory against Numayri's forces.

'Outlaws' Attack Garrison in Equatoria Region

JN141233 Khartoum SUNA in English 1220 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, Jumad Thani 22, Mar 14 (SUNA) — An outlaws group had raided today morning one of the People's Armed Forces' garrisons in Equatoria on the administrative borders with Upper Nile using mortars, battle-guns and anti-tank weapons.

On its turn, the armed forces have repulsed the attack, inflicted heavy casualties on the assailants and captured great quantities of arms left by the attackers. One of the armed forces troop was killed and another injured.

An armed forces official spokesman affirmed the troops commitment to the cease fire declared by President Numayri on the occasion of the country's celebration of the national unity day. The spokesman added that "operation was imposed on us and our forces were in position of self-defence."

SPLA Radio: Mongalla Garrison Captured 13 Mar

EA141433 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] (?Rhino) Battalion under the command of Major Benjamin Lwal Makor yesterday, on 13 March 1985, attacked and captured Mongalla enemy garrison in Equatoria Administrative area.

Fighting started at 0500 am until evening, when Mongalla fell to SPLA forces. Remnants of the enemy withdrew to (Pawoi) village, five miles south of Mongalla on the main road to Juba.

SPLA forces are still in occupation of Mongalla and are burning and demolishing the strategic buildings and installations including Mongalla textile industry, which has not been operational since its establishment.

A lot of civilians prisoners were rescued and released by SPLA. SPLA radio will announce details of the Mongalla battle as soon as they come in.

The commander in chief has sent a message of congratulations to Major Arok Thuon Arok, member of SPLA military committee and commander of SPLA forces in Southern Upper Nile and Equatoria Administrative areas for this great victory achieved by SPLA forces over Numayri's army at Mongalla.

WESTERN SAHARA

Attacks Launched Against Moroccan Forces

LD131344 Algiers APS in English 1008 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] SDAR (Liberated Territories), 13-3-85 (APS) — 49 Moroccan soldiers were killed and 80 injured after a series of attacks launched March 5 and 6 by the Saharan People's Liberation Army (ALPS) against positions of the Moroccan forces, a communique of the Saharan Ministry of Information indicated. In this context, Moroccan forces in M'guissen, Taghermet, Grayer Lehlid, EL Meswar, El Gaada, Ghadhmia were successively shelled by the Saharan People's Liberation Army, the communique pointed out. Moroccan camps in Dhlou, Taref and Houfra were also violently bombarded by the Saharans, the communique added mentioning the Moroccan material losses which are the following: a 23-mm battery, two 14.5-mm heavy machine guns, a 81-mm mortar, a GMC truck, two ammuntion depots and a great number of individual trenches.

'Great Maghreb Offensive'

LD131518 Algiers APS in English 1349 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Sadr (Liberated Territories), 13-3-85 (APS) — 29 Moroccan soldiers were killed and 55 other wounded in the frame of the launching of "the great Maghreb offensive" led by the Saharan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) against the Moroccan troops of occupation stationed in Western Sahara, a communique from the Saharan ministry of [passage indistinct].

[Words Indistinct] in South Bouguerba, Fadhet Jdari, in Faifin, M'guissen, Taghermet, and Grayer Lehlid and Ondeyonerg were pounded by the Saharan people's Liberation Army on 7 and 8 March.

Saharan Authorities Hand Over Bodies of Germans

LD142339 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] According to a statement by the SDAR Ministry of Information and Culture, Saharan authorities today handed over to the families of (Moyez), (Schmidt), and (Hanbal), the bodies of the three German nationals who were killed on 24 February in the Dakhla area following the downing of a Dornier 228 aircraft.

The SDAR has warned all states against violating Saharan airspace and said they will bear the consequences.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Arrives in Moscow for Chernenko Funeral

EA140051 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Haile Mariam Mengistu, Workers' Party of Ethiopia Central Committee secretary general, Provisional Military Administrative Council chairman, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, arrived in Moscow last night to attend the funeral of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko which is being held today.

On arrival in Moscow Comrade Haile Mariam Mengistu was welcomed by Comrade Petr Yakubovich Strautmanis, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Presidium of the Latvia SSR Supreme Soviet, and other high ranking officials. He then went to where Comrade Konstantin Chernenko's body was lying in state and laid a wreath.

Together with other various heads of state party and government, the comrade chairman went to Moscow's House of Unions this morning and expressed his deep grief at the death of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko. The funeral of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, who was the CPSU Central Committee general secretary and president of the country's Supreme Soviet Presidium, will be held in Moscow's Red Square this afternoon.

Meets Gorbachev, Returns

EA142019 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee, chairman on the Provisional Military Administrative Council, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, returned to Addis Ababa this afternoon after attending the funeral of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko.

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam was welcomed at Bole International Airport by Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wodgeress, member of the WPE Central Committee Political Bureau and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers. Present during the welcoming ceremony were Political Bureau members and alternate members of the WPE Central Committee, WPE Central Committee members, and ministers.

On his departure from Moscow this morning our comrade revolutionary leader was seen off by Soviet party and government officials.

Yesterday Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam met with Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the Kremlin palace and held talks on bilateral relations and friendship between the two parties and governments and on international and current issue.

In his speech on the occasion, Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev pointed out that Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam's presence at the funeral ceremony reaffirms the love of the WPE, the government and the people of Ethiopia for the Communist Party, the government, and the people of the Soviet Union, and the principles of international proletarianism. Comrade Gorbachev expressed to our comrade revolutionary leader his sincere belief that the genuine Ethiopian revolution, struggling for the freedom, equality, and the independence of mankind, will continue its progress and consolidate additional victories, and that the friendship and relations of the two countries will be further strengthened in all sectors.

For his part, the comrade secretary general appreciated the continuous support given by the CPSU, the government, and the people to the party, government, and people of Ethiopia and expressed his sincere belief that Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev will continue with his contributions to the common aim of the two countries, the correct principles they promote, the further strengthening of their existing friendship and relations, and, in addition, for world peace, prosperity, and development.

Earlier in Moscow, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam received and held separate talks with Comrade Ilichev, Soviet deputy minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Sam Nujoma, president of SWAPO; Comrade Raul Castro, second secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and minister of defense; and Comrade Natto, secretary general of the Italian Communist Party Central Committee. On the occasion, the comrades expressed support for the Ethiopian revolution, their love and respect for Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, and the sincere desire of their countries and parties to further strengthen their existing relations and friendship with revolutionary Ethiopia at any time.

Present during the ceremonies were Comrade Ashagre Yigletu, WPE Central Committee member and secretary; Comrade Mengistu Gemechu, WPE Central Committee member and special assistant to the comrade secretary general; and other comrades.

DFLP's Hawatimah Denounces Falasha Airlift

EA141421 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Nayif Hawatimah stated that because the illegal transportation of Ethiopians by Zionist Israel, in collaboration with the United States, the Numayri regime, and the reactionary Egyptian Government, is a dangerous plot designed to test the strong unity of African people, the Ethiopian revolution, and to weaken the Palestinian struggle for independence, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] strongly condemns the act.

Comrade Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP, said this in a statement he gave to foreign and local journalists this afternoon at the Ethiopian peace, friendship, and solidarity office hall on his organization's aim and solidarity with the Ethiopian revolution. In his statement, Comrade Nayif Hawatimah pointed out that the DFLP and the Ethiopian revolution have a common aim in their anti-Zionist, antiapartheid, and antireactionary

struggle, and affirmed that even though reactionary forces are attacking from all directions, the struggle waged by the two sides for the freedom and equality of mankind will not be able to weaken their strong bonds.

Comrade Nayif Hawatimah pointed out that Zionist Israel, with the support of the U.S. Administration, has taken advantage of the drought problem in Ethiopia to hinder the popular revolution and is creating suitable conditions to settle the illegally kidnapped citizens on the Palestinian border it occupies by force. He added that this is a plot it devised to use these citizens as instruments against the Palestinian people.

Comrade Nayif Hawatimah stated that because of the interference by some Arab countries in the internal affairs of the PLO and for various reasons at the time that Zionist Israel launched an attack on Lebanon, the organization had been divided. He pointed out that the PLO's participation in the recent anti-Ethiopia congress held in Khartoum was designed to alienate the DFLP from its friends and to strain its solidarity with Ethiopia, and he strongly condemned the deed. Comrade Nayif Hawatimah said that because the Palestinian people enjoy the full support of peace-loving and revolutionary countries and liberation movements it will pursue the struggle to a victorious conclusion.

Meets Political Bureau Member

EA141431 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Alemu Abebe, member of the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee Political Bureau, and Comrade Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], held today exhaustive discussions on the Middle East, on progressive and democratic forces in the region, and, in particular, on ways to strengthen existing relations beteen the WPE and the DFLP, and on measures that should be taken in this respect.

During the occasion, Comrade Alemu Abebe explained the struggle waged to establish a Marxist-Leninist party in Ethiopia, the organization, aims, and program of the WPE, and the activities currently underway to implement the program drafted by the WPE and the revolutionary government designed to deal with the drought problem and to eradicate it permanently. Comrade Alemu stated that the Ethiopian revolution, which has high regard for the struggle of the Palestinian people, will also in the future further strengthen its solidarity and support under the WPE leadership.

For his part, Comrade Nayif Hawatimah explained the role that the DFLP can play in further strengthening the WPE's existing relations with the Middle East and revolutionary organizations in the region and in particular the tasks that should be jointly undertaken to further strengthen relations between their two peoples. During the occasion, the DFLP secretary general expressed the respect of the progressive forces and people of Palestine for the Ethiopian revolution and affirmed that they stand by the side of the Ethiopian revolution, which is proceeding on the correct path.

SOMALIA

Siad Meets With Italian, PLO Envoys 13 Mar

EA150404 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Summary] SDR [Somali Democratic Republic] President Challe Siad this afternoon received at the presidency in Mogadishu the outgoing Italian ambassador to the SDR, Giorgio Stea-Antonini. Challe Siad and the ambassador discussed bilateral cooperation and relations. During their cordial conversation, Challe Siad said he is satisfied with the way SDR-Italian ties are growing. The president thanked the government and people of Italy for their continued assistance to the SDR in the economic, educational, technical, and social sectors.

SDR President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre this afternoon also received at the presidency in Mogadishu the new Palestinian Liberation Organization, PLO, representative to the SDR, Muhammad Hashim (?Azim). Muhammad Hashim (?Azim) delivered a letter to Challe Siad from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

TANZANIA

Nyerere Pays Official Visit to Yugoslavia

For reportage on the visit to the SFRY by President Julius Nyerere, including his meetings with government officials, see the Yugoslavia section of the 15 March Eastern Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Prime Minister Calls for More Internal Cooperation

EA142154 Zanzibar Domestic Service in Swahili 1500 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Zanzibar — Prime Minister Ndugu Salim Ahmed Salim has stressed the need to increase consolidated cooperation between the ministers of mainland Tanzania and the islands to build a strong union between the two sides. Speaking with leaders from the Office of the Prime Minister and the Office of the Chief Minister, as well as various other leaders who attended a reception at the residence of the chief minister last night, Ndugu Salim said it was time for leaders of the two sides to expand cooperation among themselves with the aim of enhancing our union. He said the only way to assist in achieving such successes is to visit each other and hold joint meetings so that each may understand the progress and the situation on both sides. Ndugu Salim said the first session of ministers from the Office of the Prime Minister and the Office of the Chief Minister held yesterday was the beginning of a series of meetings to be held later.

Briefs

Country To Join PTA — Tanzania has decided to join the Preferential Trade Area [PTA], comprising countries of the eastern and southern Africa region. Announcing the decision today in Dar es Salaam, the minister of state in the president's office responsible for international cooperation, Ndugu Mustafa Nyanganyi, said Tanzania will sign the agreement to join the PTA immediately after legal procedures are completed. [Text] [*Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 9 Mar 85 EA*]

Zanzibar Officials Sworn In — Zanzibar President Ali Hassan Mwinyi today swore in some of the ministers and principal secretaries affected by the mini reshuffle he announced on 8 March. The ministers sworn in today were Ali Haji Pandu and Ishau Abdallah Khamisi. The principal secretaries were Ahmed Abdulrahim Mahmud, Mbaruk Omar, and the new principal secretary in the ministry of transport and communications, (Hassan Samuyai). Also sworn in was Ali Amir Mohamed, the new regional commissioner for west urban region. [Summary] [*Zanzibar Domestic Service in Swahili 1600 GMT 11 Mar 85 EA*]

UGANDA

Delegation To Chernenko Funeral Leaves Moscow

EA141741 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The Uganda delegation to the state funeral of the late President Chernenko of the Soviet Union, led by the vice president and minister of defense, Mr Paulo Muwanga, has left Moscow for home via Cairo. He was seen off at Moscow Airport by the vice chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Mr Petr Strautmanis, and members of the Uganda Embassy in Moscow.

Last night, Ambassador Ochienghs Wellborn hosted a dinner in honor of the delegation at which the vice president met and held friendly exchange of views on a number of wide-ranging issues with the vice chairman of the People's [as heard] National Defense Council of Ghana, Mr Justice Daniel Annan. Recalling the historical ties between Uganda and Ghana in the struggle for independence, they assessed its setbacks and affirmed the efforts of both countries to rebuild and strengthen the national fabric.

At the Kremlin ceremony yesterday, Vice President Muwanga greeted the general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mr Gorbachev. He also met and briefly talked to the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, and the foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Briefs

Economic Talks With PRC — A Uganda cabinet minister has praised the assistance rendered by China in supplementing government efforts in the production sector. Speaking at a party to welcome a 6-man Chinese CP delegation to Uganda, the minister of animal industry and fisheries, Dr Otim, said the present meaningful cooperation between Uganda and China will strengthen the fraternity and solidarity existing between the two countries. Last year, Uganda and China signed an agreement for a joint fishing venture, which Dr Otim hoped will increase and develop Uganda's natural resources in order to raise the standard of living of the people. The Kampala ice plant, which was installed by the Chinese in 1975, is now operational and is being used for the freezing and storage of fish. The other projects successfully completed with Chinese assistance include Kibimba rice scheme in Iganga District. In reply, the leader of the delegation, Mr Jiang Guanghua, said that other areas of mutual cooperation and trust which are still left untouched will be tackled and implemented and hoped that all these areas will meet with tremendous success. The Chinese CP delegation is in Uganda to discuss bilateral economic interests between Uganda and China. [Text] [*Kampala Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 14 Mar 85 EA*]

BENIN

Kerekou Sends Congratulatory Message to Gorbachev

AB142125 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Message of congratulations from President Mathieu Kerekou, chairman of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin and chairman of the National Executive Council, to Mikhail Gorbachev following his election as general secretary of CPSU Central Committee — sent 14 March]

[Text] Your brilliant election as the general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU gives me the pleasant opportunity, on behalf of all the Beninese people, their vanguard party, the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin [PRPB], its National Executive Council, and on my own behalf, to address to you our warm and militant congratulations and also the total readiness of our vanguard party, PRPB, to work hard to further strengthen the solid relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation that, fortunately enough, exist between our two peoples, our two parties, and our two states, and to establish a lasting peace in Africa and the world. We are convinced that the oppressed people the world over who are fighting against racism, apartheid, and imperialism will find in you, as they did in your illustrious predecessor, a dignified pursuer of the struggle begun by Vladimir Lenin as well as an ardent defender of the oppressed and of just causes for the triumph of peace and the edification of socialism. As we reiterate our sincere congratulations to you, I beseech you, Mr General Secretary, to accept the expression of our highest militant considerations.

Signed, Mathieu Kerekou, Chairman of the Central Committee of the PRPB, President, head of state, and Chairman of the National Executive Council

NIGERIA

Lagos Supports U.S. Antiapartheid Bill

AB141445 Lagos International Service in English 0950 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Viewpoint]

[Text] The Kennedy family of Boston, United States, has a reputation of being in the forefront of all the campaigns for liberalism and racial equality in North America and other parts of the Western Hemisphere. It was the late President John Kennedy who introduced far-reaching legislations in the American Congress in the early 1960's to end most of the prejudices against the black population in the United States. But John Kennedy did not live long enough to bring these (?necessary) measures to fruition because he was soon cut down by the assassin bullet. However, the rest of the Kennedy family took up the gauntlet and continued prosecuting the cause of justice and racial harmony already set by the family's flag-bearer. There is no surprise, therefore, that Senator Edward Kennedy, the last of the Kennedy notables, undertook a fact-finding tour early this year to South Africa, the heartland of apartheid. He (?wanted to know) [words indistinct] about the horrors of apartheid in action. He therefore distinguished himself as an American leader who believes in practical experience and action rather than the exposition of theories such as what the Reagan administration calls constructive engagement with the racist regime as a means of ending apartheid.

And so, back home in the United States, Edward Kennedy, who belongs to the Democratic Party, told the American people that it was absolutely important to adopt concrete measures to liquidate apartheid. The bill, which he has presented to the American Congress, already enjoys bipartisan support in that it was co-sponsored by a congressional member of the Republican Party, to which President Reagan belongs. Even before then, many leading members of the Republican Party had taken part in the daily demonstrations in Washington and other American cities against President Reagan's so-called constructive engagement policy. Some of them have gone a step further by presenting written representations to Mr Reagan in the White House calling on him to join the rest of the world in the campaign to end apartheid.

In view of this popular and widespread antiapartheid posture, the Kennedy bill in the American Congress deserves full support. The bill calls for the imposition of four major sanctions against South Africa. These are mainly economic prohibition, which includes the curtailment of further American investment in South Africa and the granting of loans to the apartheid regime.

It is, of course, a notorious fact that the racist regime has been sustained so far by the economic and military collaboration which it has been enjoying from the United States and a few other Western countries. The measure now proposed by Edward Kennedy is in line with the conviction of the UN General Assembly which has already called on the UN Security Council to consider the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria regime. It is to be hoped that President Reagan and his administration would give a well-deserved support to the Kennedy proposals for American legislative action to terminate apartheid.

SENEGAL

Further on Visit by Algerian Foreign Minister

LD141807 Algiers APS in English 1445 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Dakar 14-3-85 (APS) — Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, F.L.N. party politburo member, minister of foreign affairs, arrived on Wednesday in the Senegalese capital, the first step of an African tour which will lead him successively to Bamako, Ouagadougou and Niamey. In a [words indistinct] Taleb Ibrahimi, President Chadli Bendjedid, special envoy and who is to deliver a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to President Abdou Diouf first recalled the three axes of the permanent Algero-Senegalese concertation and which are: the reinforcement of the bilateral cooperation, the search of an African solution to African problems and the necessity to make Africa play the role it deserves on the world scene.

"[Words indistinct] positive results may be more in the field of bilateral cooperation than in the one of the search of African solutions to African problems" the head of the Algerian diplomacy pointed out.

Asked on the possible venue of a Maghrebine summit, the Algerian foreign affairs minister recalled that the idea of such a summit was proposed by Algeria in 1983 and underlined that the holding of a Maghrebine summit "is not an end in itself...and that in order to except [as received] tangible results one should prepare it with great meticulousness".

Taleb Ibrahimi was audienced yesterday evening by the Senegalese President Abdou Diouf to whom he handed over a message from President Chadli Bendjedid.

SIERRA LEONE

Communique Issued on Visit by Guinea's Conte

AB142248 Conakry Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 13 Mar 85

["Final" communique on official visit of delegation led by Guinean President Lansana Conte to Sierra Leone on 13 March]

[Excerpts] Upon the invitation of the president of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Dr Siaka Stevens, His Excellency Colonel Lansana Conte, chairman of the Military Committee for National Redress [CMRN] and president of the Republic of Guinea, undertook a friendly and working visit to the Republic of Sierra Leone on Wednesday, 13 March 1985. His Excellency Col Lansana Conte and his delegation were met by President Siaka Stevens at Bamulaya, in the Kandia Region. From there the two heads of state proceeded to [name indistinct] in the same region where they held talks. The two heads of state held private talks followed by an official meeting between members of their two delegations.

As leaders who are aware of the solidaristic destiny of Guinea and Sierra Leone, Presidents Lansana Conte and Siaka Stevens stressed the need to give more impetus to the relations of brotherly friendship and active solidarity that exist between their two peoples in their joint commitment to assert their national and African identities. The two heads of state emphasized the opportunity the two countries now have for the revival of the activities of the joint high cooperation commission and its subsidiary organizations.

Within the framework of the necessary economic integration in Africa, the two heads of state praised their countries' membership in the Mano River Union, which they consider to be an important instrument for the creation of the material basis for the collective happiness of their peoples. In this regard, the two heads of state pointed out that the structures and functioning of the Mano River Union must necessarily be in accordance with the interests of the African people.

The two heads of state decided to approach the European Economic Community for the financing of the Conakry-Freetown road.

Referring to the economic crisis, which has greatly affected African economies in spite of the national efforts being made by our two countries, the heads of state approved of the resolution passed at the last OAU heads of state summit calling for the setting up of structures [words indistinct] and the need to promote cooperation between African countries within the framework of the creation of a new world economic order.

On drought and famine in Africa, the two heads of state, who expressed satisfaction with international aid, pointed out that this will have to be increased in view of the serious effects of these calamaties. In the same regard, the two heads of state emphasized the efforts that need to be made nationally to wipe out the causes and consequences of drought.

On the problem of the liquidation of the [words indistinct] and colonialism in Africa, the two heads of state reasserted their unconditional support and the active solidarity of their respective peoples and governments with the liberation movements in southern Africa and called for the implementation of Resolution No 435 of the UN Security Council so that Namibia may be granted independence immediately. The two heads of state condemned the racist regime of Pretoria, which obstinately violates international law and is depriving the majority of the South African people of their right to assert their national identity.

At the end of his visit, His Excellency Col Lansana Conte, chairman of the CMRN and president of the Republic of Guinea, expressed his profound thanks to the people and Government of Sierra Leone and especially to President Siaka Stevens for the brotherly and warm welcome he and his delegation received. His Excellency President Lansana Conte invited his brother and friend, his Excellency Dr Siaka Stevens, to undertake an official and friendly visit to the Republic of Guinea. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. The date will be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

Signed in [name indistinct], Kandia Region, on 13 March 1985 by His Excellency Dr Siaka Stevens, president of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and by His Excellency Col Lansana Conte, chairman of the CMRN.

ANGOLA

Domingos Visits CSSR, Signs Agreements

For reportage on the visit to the CSSR by Major Evaristo Domingos "Kimba," member of the MPLA-Labor Party Politburo and minister of agriculture and forestry and provincial coordination, including his meetings with party officials and signing several cooperation agreements, see the Czechoslovak section of the 14 March Eastern Europe *DAILY REPORT*.

ANGOP on South African 'Double Standard'

MB141836 Luanda ANGOP in French 1200 GMT 14 Mar 85

[ANGOP commentary: "Pretoria's Double Standards"]

[Text] South Africa's recent decision to build an electrified zone on the borders with the Frontline countries, and in particular between the People's Republic of Angola and illegally occupied Namibia, can only indicate aggressive plans against the peoples of southern Africa.

The fact that South Africa has resorted to a double standard in order to justify simultaneously applying identical measures to the borders with Namibia [as received], Zimbabwe, and Botswana, sheds light on the aggressive nature of its plans. It is becoming increasingly clear that the apartheid regime is presenting a dual image before the international community, that is, false reforms on the one hand and an effective destabilization policy on the other.

Thus, while the pretext for wiring Zimbabwe's border was that South Africa is trying to clamp down on illegal workers, Pretoria shows a lack of scruples by presenting a completely different motive concerning Namibia, namely that it was due to the just struggle of the SWAPO combatants.

This is happening while the international community is unanimously contesting the legitimacy of South Africa's repressive measures against black workers. The international community also unequivocally supports SWAPO's struggle for Namibia's independence based on UN Security Council Resolution No 435/78. This attitude also points to a condemnation of the so-called security zone which the Pretoria authorities want to set up in northern Namibia.

The futile viewpoint held by South Africa becomes even more untrue when analyzed in light of numerous aggressions carried out against Angola from Namibia, notably the infiltration of armed gangs into Angola.

The whole world, even those circles that are hostile to the People's Republic of Angola, knows that it is precisely in northern Namibia that the real puppet bases are located. No one with common sense would delude himself with the notion that the so-called security zone will help diminish bandit activities.

On the contrary, the armed counterrevolution which today benefits from South Africa's multidimensional support will not reduce its vandalism inside Angola, unless forced to do so by the implacable combat of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola.

The international community has already understood that some UNITA elements are ready to desert their ranks in order to benefit from the MPLA-Labor Party's policy of clemency [words indistinct] UNITA's strategic failure but also the lassitude and desperation which is rife among the puppets. UNITA now wants to reduce at any cost the level of desertions in its ranks. Pretoria is thus ready to [words indistinct] vitally important economic centers. [passage indistinct]

New Restrictions on Movement of Diplomats Denied

LD142005 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] A source at the Portuguese Embassy in Luanda denied this evening that the Angolan Government has imposed any fresh restriction on the movement of foreign diplomats. The source was commenting on UNITA President Savimbi's statement this morning to the effect that the Angolan authorities have restricted the movement of foreign diplomats to a 25 km radius from the center of Luanda.

MIG-21 Trainer Crashes in Bie Province

MB141246 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Communique from the Angolan People's Air Force and Antiaircraft Defense Command "just received" — date not given]

[Text] At 1227 on 12 March 1985, a MIG-21 trainer aircraft crashed about 2 km from the runway while trying to perform a dangerous maneuver immediately after takeoff from Kuito Airport in Bie Province. The aircraft was totally destroyed, and its pilot, Second Lieutenant Rui Morais da Conceicao, was killed. The command and the general staff of the Angolan People's Air Force and Antiaircraft Defense Command Extend their deepest condolences to the grief-stricken family.

UNITA Claims MIG-21, Cuban Pilot Shot Down

PA151325 Paris AFP in English 1316 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Paris, March 15 (AFP) — The Angolan rebel UNITA movement said today its forces had shot down a MIG-21 fighter of the Luanda Government's Air Force last Tuesday.

In a communique delivered to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, UNITA (National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola) said the aircraft had been shot down near the airfield at Bie, in central southern Angola, and the pilot killed.

UNITA named the pilot as a Cuban, Captain Garcia Ortega Gonzales.

Savimbi Claims Luanda Encircled, Warns Foreigners

MB141545 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] The leader of the UNITA movement in Angola, Dr Jonas Savimbi, says that the Angolan capital of Luanda has been encircled by his forces. He says that the MPLA government has restricted the movement of foreign diplomats to a 25 km radius from the center of Luanda.

Speaking to newsmen at the UNITA headquarters, Jamba, in southeastern Angola, Dr Savimbi said that the population of Bengo Province was fleeing from the rural areas to Luanda because of the intensification of the war. He said that by the end of this year, Luanda would have a population of 2 million people. This would be twice as much as the city's infrastructure could cater for.

Dr Savimbi also declared 4 Portuguese, 2 Americans, 3 Britons, and 17 Filipinos, who have been held captive by UNITA, to be free.

The UNITA leader said that in future, any foreigners who were captured in Angola by his movement would just be kept prisoner, and UNITA would not negotiate their release. Dr Savimbi added that UNITA controlled one-third of Angola, and that his forces operated in most of the provinces.

The 26 foreigners released by UNITA are expected to arrive in Johannesburg on Saturday afternoon. They have been handed over to members of the International Red Cross, who will see to their journey from Jamba to Johannesburg.

Savimbi Warns West Against Pressure on RSA

MB141954 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] In Angola, UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi has said the already fragile balance of power in southern Africa could be in jeopardy unless the West ceases to exert mounting pressure on South Africa. He warned against violence, which could benefit the Soviet Union. His warning coincided with the release of 26 captives held by UNITA. Ray Smuts visited Jamba in southern Angola.

[Begin recording] [Smuts] This is Jamba, headquarters of Dr Jonas Savimbi's UNITA movement. It is a special day — the 19th anniversary of UNITA's struggle, first against the Portuguese, and then for a democratic Angola. Behind me, you see a battalion of UNITA soldiers, 1,000 smartly dressed soldiers, AK-47'S clutched to their chests. After a spectacular parade, which included a march-past by captured MPLA prisoners, and also attended by a number of captives, Dr Savimbi spelled out his continued opposition to Cubans in Angola.

[Savimbi, addressing crowd in Portuguese] They have given their lives so that the ideals of UNITA will live forever.

[Addressing newsmen in English] We have the soldiers. They will ask us, you capture them, you release them, what is going on? It is what it will be. I will not say why not, because in Portuguese you do not have (?why). But it will be good, handsome, if they told us they will leave the area where they can be (?found). It will be very good, because if they are captured, it will be very difficult. [end recording]

MOZAMBIQUE

President Machel Meets With Gorbachev in Moscow

MB141928 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] President Samora Machel met in the Kremlin, Moscow, today with Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The topic of discussion was the prevailing situation in southern Africa, particularly the situation brought about by the actions of international imperialism and reactionary forces against Mozambique. The meeting was attended by minister in the presidency Armando Guebuza, and Soviet Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Gromyko. A source close to the meeting said that it was held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding.

Returns From Funeral

MB150939 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] President Samora Machel has just returned from Moscow, the capital of the USSR, where he attended the funeral ceremony of Konstantin Chernenko, the late secretary general of the CPSU Central Committee. In Moscow yesterday afternoon, President Samora Machel was received at the Kremlin by Mikhail Gorbachev, the present secretary general of the CPSU.

On his return to Maputo this morning, President Samora Machel was welcomed by Joaquim Chissano, a member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs. Also present at the airport were a number of members of the Mozambican party and state as well as Yuriy Sepelev, the Soviet ambassador to Mozambique.

Recommitment With RSA on Nkomati Accord

MB141757 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] South Africa and Mozambique have again committed themselves to the rigid implementation of the Nkomati Accord, signed on 16 March 1984. Our political staff reports that top-level talks between South Africa and Mozambique in Maputo today have averted the possibility of serious problems affecting the accord. In a joint statement, the two delegations said both countries considered it extremely necessary that the Nkomati Accord be fully implemented to the benefit of development in the whole of southern Africa. In the statement, both governments expressed their concern over the increase of violent incidents in Mozambique, and said ways had been discussed of bringing an end to these.

Our political staff says the discussions were also used to review the progress made since the signing of the accord.

The South African delegation was led by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the Mozambican delegation by the minister of security, Colonel Vieira.

The talks were the seventh of their kind during the past year, since the establishment of the joint security commission between the two countries. Mr Botha was assisted by the minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, several deputy ministers, and high-level defense force officers.

RAND DAILY MAIL on MNR Impact, Support

MB140917 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 14 Mar 85 p 6

[Third part of 3-part series by Benjamin Pogrund after a visit to Maputo: "MNR Yoke Hanging Heavy on Mozambique"]

[Text] Stories alleging South African involvement with the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (MNR) abound in Maputo. But how true are they?

That the MNR remains a force is obvious. At the time of Nkomati it was thought that the MNR would wither away within about six months because its arms and food supplies had ended.

But a year later it appears to be a graver threat than ever to the Frelimo government.

With the first anniversary of the signing of the Nkomati Accord on Saturday this is a source of intense disappointment and anger to Mozambicans.

They carried out their side of the accord with their overnight, rough eviction of African National Congress members, leaving the organisation with only a token presence in Maputo. That gave Pretoria what it wanted.

But the Mozambicans say they have not gained in return. The MNR has not been eliminated and the hoped-for economic benefits have not materialised.

There is a sense of shame among some about what they did to the ANC. And for what, they ask?

Among Mozambicans generally it is an article of faith that South Africa is still responsible for the MNR, and this is regularly reflected in the monthly bulletin published by the official news agency, AIM. Thus its latest February issue notes that the Nkomati Accord "moved a few more degrees towards freezing point with an upsurge in January of terrorist activity by MNR bandits".

The bulletin lists a series of episodes. Such as: After two Britons from Johannesburg were murdered near Komatipoort in January, "Mozambican soldiers followed the bandits' trail which led to the South African border".

And referring to sabotage of electricity pylons in January: "Peasants living in the area where the sabotage took place have told of seeing armed white men entering Mozambique from South Africa at night."

Counter-arguments that it is totally contrary to Pretoria's current interests to keep the MNR going and that President P.W. Botha has since Nkomati repeatedly distanced himself from the organisation, are met with response that there is a split inside the South African ruling establishment and that some "elements" are still giving aid.

Alternatively it is said that, even if the South African Government is not directly helping the MNR, it is not doing enough to police its own borders to keep the MNR from getting into and out of Mozambique.

"If an ANC man crosses from Mozambique into South Africa your police and Army will know about it within an hour and an hour later he will be captured or shot," is how a Mozambican describes it. "How can you ask me to believe they cannot stop the bandits who are coming across to kill our people?"

The passion is such that it does not allow for any doubts about South Africa's ability to control its borders, despite evidence to the countrary.

A particular widely circulating story of the moment is that a South African Army lieutenant was caught inside Mozambique on December 31.

A linked story has it that three other soldiers have been caught since then.

But no substantiating evidence has been made available, not even privately to Western diplomats.

Asked about the alleged captures, a South African Defence Force spokesman in Pretoria says that "unless it is a draft dodger or someone similar, it is impossible that Mozambique can have or could have captured any South African soldiers, because no South African soldiers are deployed in Mozambique."

But after noting the various accusations and denials, the fact remains that the MNR is going strong: AIM even reports air drops in the interior of the country and landings on the coast.

Who in southern Africa has the means and the motivation to keep up supplies on what must be quite a scale?

Other interests are also named in Maputo as helping the MNR in one form or another: they range from Portuguese (in Portugal, South Africa and South America) through Malawians to Saudi Arabians and wealthy princes in the Gulf states.

Why the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia?

Some suggest that various Arab princes have believed allegations made to them about persecution of the large numebr of Muslims in Mozambique and are putting money and arms into the MNR.

Others say the Saudis are worried that oil might be found in Mozambique one of these years and they are intent on damaging the country now.

Unlikely as these stories sound, they are the stuff of earnest debate in Maputo.

What it finally comes down is that there is no certainty about who is chiefly responsible for the MNR continuing to be so potent a force. The secret is being well-kept.

But the effects of the violence are clear. Relations between Mozambique and South africa have progressed little since the first post-Nkomati contacts.

Nor has business increased much — and nor can it until Mozambique is secure. Only the most limited tourism is possible.

The MNR attacks are all the more serious because they compound Mozambique's existing problems.

The first 10 years of independence are to be celebrated in June while the country is still struggling.

Nor is there much light in the tunnel. Many, if not most, government ministries have only a bare handful of people who are competent and able to do their work with confidence.

The schooling system will take years to produce numbers of people to the levels the country needs: one statistic, for example, reveals that of every 1,000 girls entering school, only 260 complete the four years of primary education.

Another illustration of the country's problems is given in a government report about grain needs for the first four months of this year: There is a projected shortfall of nearly 25 percent in the total required 339,000 tons, "causing concern about possible increased malnutrition in the months before the next harvest".

A large proportion of the grain comes from abroad, much of it as gifts. Otherwise Mozambique would be even worse off than it already is.

And yet it is not entirely unrelieved bleakness. Some foreign aid workers speak enthusiastically about progress they see, about a factory that is now making the parts to keep the generators going in other factories, or about a rural area where peasants are showing themselves responsive to new techniques.

Again and again, however, it comes back to the war: whether growth, slow and small as it is, will continue or whether the destruction and deterioration will spread.

The great imponderable is the extent to which the MNR can intensify its violence.

As against this, the government's trump card is the willingness of the West to recognise it and to provide it with aid — vital food and, as now planned by the Reagan administration, also military training.

SOUTH AFRICA

Mauritius Considering Possible Trade Agreement

MB141614 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Radio RSA's correspondent in Port Louis says the Government of Mauritius is to consider the implications of signing a trade agreement with South Africa in the near future. He says the Mauritian Government is divided over the agreement.

The deputy prime minister, Sir Gaetan Duval, is strongly in favor of it, and says it will bring in more foreign exchange, and will improve the balance of payments.

Our correspondent says that, in terms of the proposed agreement, no customs duties will have to be paid on Mauritian goods entering South Africa.

Le Grange Implicates ANC in Transvaal Murder

MB150728 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] The South African minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, says Russian weapons were used to murder a couple near the town of (Petroville) in the Western Transvaal Province on Tuesday.

Addressing the House of Assembly in Cape Town, Mr le Grange said cartridges of the AK-47 rifle had been found in the stolen pick-up vehicle of the murdered. Mr le Grange said the vehicle in which the killers has made their getaway was found in the Republic of Bophutatswana near the border with Botswana. He said the ANC was the only organization which used the AK-47 rifle in South Africa.

A spokesman for the South African Police in Pretoria said Bophuthatswana and South African Police were searching for the three men who had gunned down the couple. The spokesman said the three men had looted and burned down the shop owned by the couple.

Johannesburg Responds to Maputo on Nkomati Pact

MB141604 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Station commentary: "The Nkomati Accord Between South Africa and Mozambique"]

[Text] It is a welcome development that high-level talks are being held again between South Africa and Mozambique on the Nkomati Accord. That there are difficulties with the accord nobody denies. But it is equally essential that they be sorted out, and that the accord itself should not be placed in jeopardy.

It is, however, disturbing to note that, in a commentary, Radio Maputo blames South Africa's internal policies for the cycle of violence in southern Africa. The broadcast declares: When apartheid goes, peace will have a chance in southern Africa, because apartheid is the root cause of aggression and destabilization in the region.

The writer of that commentary should consider these facts: that South Africa had nothing to do with the fact that UNITA leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, was kicked out of his rightful place in government in Angola, and took to the bush. It was caused by internal discontent. And the people who are fanning the flames of war in Angola today are the Soviets and their Cuban surrogates.

The internal unrest in Zimbabwe, with thousands of Matabele being slaughtered by Prime Minister Mugabe's forces, is once again caused by internal problems, and is not of South Africa's doing.

It was not South Africa which canceled the general election in Lesotho in 1970, which led to the formation of the Lesotho Liberation Army as the militant wing of the Basotholand Congress Party, and the subsequent violence against the Jonathan government.

Similarly, the existence of Mozambique National Resistance, Renamo, in Mozambique, is not of South Africa's doing. Were this country in control of Renamo, then violence would have stopped immediately at the signing of Nkomati a year ago. Yet, repeated appeals by South Africa for Renamo to cease its violence, and repeated attempts by South Africa to bring about a cease-fire, have failed.

But there is another disturbing aspect of the Radio Maputo commentary, particularly where it refers to South Africa's internal policies in the context of an analysis of the state of the Nkomati Accord. The Nkomati Accord has nothing to do with the internal policies of either South Africa or Mozambique. It does not demand that South Africa change its policies, just as it does not demand that Mozambique change its policies. The great advantage of the Nkomati Accord is that it cuts through ideological differences, and puts them aside for the sake of fruitful cooperation between the two countries. For that reason, the Nkomati Accord is a realistic one. It should be kept that way.

SWAZILAND

Bhekimpi Discusses Recent University Unrest

MB141855 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, says the government will take all necessary precautions to ensure that the University of Swaziland, the only institution of higher learning in the country, was not transformed into a political institution by a minority of unruly students. Prince Bhekimpi said he is going to address university students on a day to be fixed. He is going to address them about the recent classes boycott at Kwaluseni campus that nearly led to the closure of the university.

Addressing a poorly attended meeting at Inkundla [electoral college constituency] of Lozitha today, he said the university should be respected and regarded as sacred, as it was established by the king for the sole purpose of offering the Swazi nation higher education. He said students were sent to the university to learn, but, to the government's astonishment, some students are turning the university into a political forum, to air their grievances critical to the country's leadership. The prime minister disclosed that two university students will appear in court next Monday for distributing pamphlets at Siteki critical to the supreme council of state and the government. He said some of the students involved in the university political unrest have already skipped the country.

Prince Bhekimpi also repeated his appeal that the people should respect and love their monarchy. He requested chiefs to work hand in hand with the government in maintaining peace and stability in the country.

2 ANC Members Held After Arms Discovery

MB140924 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 14 Mar 85 p 1

[Excerpt] Two members of the ANC are being held by police for questioning following the discovery of a cache of arms of war in a house at Mbabane.

The consignment comprised a Russian made AK 47 assault rifle and two magazines, an automatic pistol, magazine, and 77 live rounds of ammunition.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Sends Gorbachev Congratulatory Message

MB141900 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] The first secretary and president of the ZANU-PF, the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has sent a congratulatory message to Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, the new general secretary of the CPSU. The message expresses confidence that the friendship and cooperation between the two countries will be consolidated. Noting that Comrade Gorbachev's election came that the opening of the Geneva peace talks, Comrade Mugabe expressed the hope that the talks will succeed for the furthering [passage indistinct].

The prime minister said in southern Africa peace was threatened by the South African regime, which oppresses the black majority in South Africa and occupies Namibia in defiance of international opinion. Comrade Mugabe added that Soviet support for liberation movements fighting the apartheid regime contribute to the cause for peace in southern Africa.